

Hafa Adai!

Attao wants to tap \$27M casino BGRT. **PAGE 2**

Purification ceremony held to heal wounds of war. **PAGE 8**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 137

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY JULY 12, 2016

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75¢

CUC pipeline construction outlay increases by \$2.1M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to unforeseen site conditions and construction challenges encountered that include human remains exhumations, additional archeological excavations, an unexploded 500-lb World War II bomb, among others, the

» **Funding ceiling reaches \$10.6M**
» **Unforeseen site conditions, construction challenges include human remains exhumations, 500-lb WWII bomb**

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. oil pipeline construction project's cost increased by \$2.1 million from the \$8.5-million budget ceiling.

See CUC on Page 4

\$2.8M expansion of Troop Store gets underway

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces, reservists, and veterans including their families will have a bigger and better Troop Store once its \$2.8-million expansion and other improvements are completed next year. The store is located along Industrial Drive in Puerto Rico.

Construction crews had already started work on the site, located just beside the current store. The store remains open with the current facility to be torn down as soon as the new facility takes shape.

William "Rick" Fair said the Troop Store expansion project was long overdue and he is now looking forward for next year's ribbon

See \$2.8M on Page 4

Army Reserve Center to undergo \$7M facelift

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United States Army Reserve Center on Saipan is undergoing a major facelift as the project, once completed early next year, would provide a safer and bigger facility to all CNMI reservists. Brig. Gen. Stephen K. Curda joined local officials in yesterday's groundbreaking in Puerto Rico.

Two of the buildings, the Staff Sgt. Wilgene Lieto Professional Development Facility and the Cpl. Derence Jack Administration Support Facility, at the center were dedicated in honor

See ARMY on Page 4

JON PEREZ

CNMI Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, third right, and Brig. Gen. Stephen K. Curda, center, prepare to shovel dirt in yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony of the Saipan Army Reserve Center revitalization project. Others in the photo are, from left, Army & Air Force Exchange Service area manager Rick Fair, Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army Viola Alepuyo, U.S. Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan's district director Mike Tenorio, Joint Region Marianas Regional Engineer Capt. Stephanie Jones, and U.S. Command Public Affairs chief William Nutter.



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The CNMI's first Gates Millennium Scholar is spending her summer as an intern under the Center for Disease Control's Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program.

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FOCUS

A case brought by U.S. ally the Philippines against China represents a diplomatic dilemma for far-flung nations.

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LIFE & STYLE

"The Secret Life of Pets" follows "Zootopia" and "Finding Dory" as the latest success this year.

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BEST 2016 LIBDAY PARADE FLOAT

Kids riding the Marianas Visitors Authority float wave to the crowd in last week's Liberation Day parade. The MVA float was declared the winner of the 2016 Liberation Day Parade float competition. JON PEREZ

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FOR PAYOUT FOR ILL PATIENTS/ MEDICAL REFERRAL:

Attao wants to tap \$27M casino BGRT

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) has authored a bill to appropriate \$5 million from business gross revenue taxes collected from the Saipan casino for the CNMI government's medical referral program.

Citing new reports where the exclusive casino license holder, or Best Sunshine International, Ltd., stated that they have paid about \$27 million in BGRT to the CNMI government, Attao notes that the CNMI's Medical Referral Program is a "qualified recipient" of funds from BGRT collections per the Saipan casino law, or Public Law 18-56.

"The Medical Referral Program has been under budgeted," Attao writes in House Bill 19-182, noting a reliance on health care outside of the Commonwealth due to the lack of equipment and specialists and how government resources have been redirected for such treatment.

"The administration continues to reprogram funds within its authority for the Medical Referral Program and by doing so, departments and line item agencies have to be more flexible and creative as to how the limited funds available to them is to be utilized," the bill says.

"With the payment of BGRT...already in the Commonwealth's coffers, it is imperative that necessary measures be undertaken to relief [sic?] the Commonwealth with its financial obligations and assist the Commonwealth in improving its services for the people of the CNMI and its visitors alike."

The bill allots \$3 million to payment of prior and current obligations of the Medical Referral Program, leftovers of which can be transferred to the other allocation of \$2 million for the program's personnel and operations.

The bill tasks the Department of Finance secretary to create a special account, or the "Exclusive Casino BGRT

See ATTAAO on Next Page

Ogumoro wants 'Casino BGRT Account' to fund DPS, Fire & EMS, education

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) wants to add several more government agencies to possible recipients of gross revenue tax generated from the Saipan casino under casino law and amend the casino law to create a special "Casino BGRT Account" for these funds.

Ogumoro's House Bill 19-180 adds the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and 25 percent pension payments to CNMI retirees.

It amends a provision of Saipan casino law on the "disposition of gross revenue tax" to task the Department of Finance secretary with establishing a "Casino BGRT Account separate from the general fund."

"The funds in the Casino BGRT Account shall not

lapse and are not subject to fiscal year limitations," the amendment reads.

The bill also amends that BGRT under the provision would be deposited under this account.

It deletes "are Commonwealth funds" and adds that the funds shall be appropriated "by the Legislature."

On the departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Public Safety, the bill says that with the growing population of the CNMI, businesses, and construction of high-rise buildings (hotels and casino), the said departments will need to be equipped with modern equipment, tools, and more manpower to able to perform and function in the new environment.

It also notes how NMC and NMTI will be able expand on training and academic opportunities for the local workforce with additional funding.

See OGUMORO on Next Page

IN JURY TRIAL OF 3 DEFENDANTS IN FAKE CHECKS IN TAX REBATES SCHEME

Manglona orders abbreviated briefing schedule on motion to change venue

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has set an abbreviated briefing schedule as a jury trial is set to begin in less than three weeks in the case against three

defendants facing charges for engaging in a scheme to deposit counterfeit checks into their bank accounts over \$24,000 in tax rebates from the CNMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona

V. Manglona in an order issued on Friday said the motion to transfer the venue of this case to the District of Oregon will be heard at the pretrial conference on July 19 at 1:30pm.

The trial of defendants

Brooke K. Phillips, Larry Tagabuel, and Kenatis M. Alafanso will be in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on July 26.

Vancouver, Washington-based Phillips, through court-appointed counsel Mark B. Hanson, filed a motion for transfer of venue.

Oregon-based Tagabuel, through court-appointed counsel David G. Banes, joined Phillips' motion to change venue of the case to the District of Oregon.

As of yesterday afternoon, Vancouver, Washington-based Alafanso, had yet to respond to the motion to change venue.

Hanson and Banes stated in the motion that the location of their clients and the potential witnesses, the expense to the parties, and the relative accessibility of the

place of trial all weigh heavily in favor of transfer.

In her order issued on Friday, Manglona gave Alafanso no later than Wednesday, July 13, to file a notice of joinder in the motion, or a response to the motion.

Manglona said the U.S. government shall file a response to the motion no later than Wednesday, July 13.

Manglona said any defendants who wish to reply to

the U.S. government's response shall do so no later than Friday, July 15.

The indictment charged Phillips, Tagabuel, and Alafanso with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and 13 counts of wire fraud.

The indictment was filed in the CNMI and the case was transferred from the District of Oregon, where the arrests of the defendants were made, to the District of the NMI.

2 injured in Gualo Rai vehicular head-on collision

Two persons were injured during a head-on collision by two vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road near the Shell Gasoline Station in Gualo Rai on Friday night.

A 39-year-old Palauan male, who was the driver of one vehicle, complained of dizziness and sustained a laceration to his face. His passenger, a 41-year-old Palauan female, sustained a laceration to the head.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services emergency medical technicians examined and treated the two victims, then transported them to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center's emergency room.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said yesterday that the two occupants of the second vehicle were not injured and refused to undergo medical examination.

Gersonde said that

DFEMS received on Friday at 8:31pm a call from the Department of Public Safety 911 dispatch about a vehicular crash near the Shell Gas Station in Gualo Rai.

Gersonde said medics from Koblerville Fire Station and Rescue team from Susupe Fire Station responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, emergency medical technicians came upon two vehicles that had collided head on.

Gersonde said EMTs applied precautions by applying a cervical collar and using a spine board to stabilize the injured victims' neck and spine as well as controlling the bleeding.

Gersonde referred to DPS any information regarding the vehicles and or cause of the accident.

As of press time, DPS had yet to release information about the crash. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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ATTAO

From Page 2

for the Medical Referral Program Fund."

Attao has also authored a bill, H.B. 19-183, to appropriate \$6 million from the Saipan casino law for the Public School System.

The bill notes PSS' recovery from damage caused by Typhoon Soudelor, its utility obligations, and a projected deficit for personnel operations for this fiscal year with an increase in insurance premiums, among others, in justifying the appropriation.

The bill sets aside \$1 million for payment of PSS debt to the local utility, \$1 million to its Office of Pupil Transportation, \$1 million for personnel life insurance costs, and \$3 million for PSS personnel and operation costs provided that \$50,000 be reserved for overtime payment of bus drivers due to ongoing double sessions of some schools.

OGUMORO

From Page 2

The bill also adds provisions to "cover any shortfall in the funding of the 25 percent pension payments to CNMI retirees."


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Ada presents plans to decongest Garapan area

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Answering questions from the business community last week, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada said they are sitting down with the departments of Public Lands and Public Safety on the Garapan business area that Ada acknowledges as already “congested” by 2pm every day.

During a Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting last

week, Ada noted DPW erected no parking signs in front of U Save Car Rental in Garapan, which he stressed does help decongest the side or shoulder of the roads, which he later noted also prevents DPW road sweepers from doing their work with cars parked in the area.

Ada disclosed DPW has a “study on hand,” estimating a design to cost \$100,000 design for a “one-way street” in Garapan to ease traffic flow.

He said they have pre-

sented a simulation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torre and the Legislature on the area and noted that construction, including road signs, would “costs in the millions.”

He also acknowledged that DPS should monitor and enforce no parking signs.

“A lot of those cars that park there most of those cars are off island...that is why we are meeting” with DPS “on right of way issue,” he said. “Believe me something

is going to happen.”

Chamber: No response yet from BSI on yanking construction visas

The head of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce also told *Saipan Tribune* after last week’s meeting that they haven’t heard back yet from the Saipan casino on a request for the casino to pull out construction worker visas to alleviate a breached contract worker cap this year.

“No official word yet,” Chamber president Velma Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Chamber, among others groups, last month asked the Saipan casino and another major resort developer on island to yank out or cancel contract worker visas for construction workers “not yet on the ground,” in order to alleviate the strain these thousands of worker slots have on a contract worker program that has been capped out this fiscal year.

The groups believe this will immediately alleviate the strain of the humanitarian crisis and impending economic collapse brought about by the departure of hundreds of foreign workers who’ve been forced to leave the Commonwealth by the end of the fiscal year, because of the breached cap.

BSI and other hotel devel-

opers could have applied for construction workers under the H-visa class and this has been stressed by the Chamber and the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

“I want everyone to know that the administration, from the policy side of it, they are really encouraging that the construction workers...move those into the H-1 visa,” Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

“It will relieve the cap,” he added.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. has yet to respond to requests for comment forwarded to casino executives on the issue.

Best Sunshine plans to complete its casino resort in Garapan by 2017 to usher the first phase of its multibillion-dollar casino industry on Saipan.

\$2.8M

From Page 1

cutting. Fair is the area manager for Korea, Guam, and Saipan of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, an agency that is also under the U.S. Department of Defense.

“We’ve done a site visit here and we take into consideration the condition of the building, and it is now 30 years old,” said Fair, who attended yesterday’s groundbreaking ceremony where it was simultaneously held with the Saipan Army Reserve Center’s facility revitalization project.

“Possibly we’re looking at February or March of next year for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Once the new facility is completed, we’re ready to better serve those who are in the active duty, retirees, reservists, and veterans including their families,” Fair added.

U.S. Delegate Gregorio “Kilili” Sablan (Ind-MP), in a message read by district director Mike Tenorio, said all those who serve—active, reservists, retirees, and veterans—the Armed Forces need a better facility.

“You deserve better. It took some work from the [DoD] to get the project going and we kept pushing for it. We owe all of you for the service that you



CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS

JON PEREZ
Conceptual drawings of the proposed expansion of the Troops Store at the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

gave to our nation,” said Sablan, who is in Washington, D.C. since the U.S. House of Representatives is still in session.

“The community has outgrown the store and the facility has deteriorated even if renovations were done in 2003. There were also delays like the discovery of World War II ordnances. It took another three years but now the area is safe and the project is ready to go,” he added.

Veterans Affairs Office director Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. said, “The expansion would mean more commodities will be offered to all—veterans, active and reservists, and retirees—and their families.”

Thirty percent of AAFES’ profit is funding the project, which is part of the non-appropriated funds. The 70 percent goes back to the community where the Troop

Store is located for other projects for the people.

Fair said that Saipan is his third stop after attending store openings in American Samoa and Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. “This just proves our mission that we’re here to make it happen.”

He added that the Troop Store expansion project on Saipan would not have pushed through without the help of the entire CNMI community. “The community helped made it happen. This won’t have also pushed through without the support of the CNMI leadership.”

The new facility, once completed in 2017, will have a total area of 5,000 square feet that is more than four times larger than the current store. It will serve more than 4,000 active, reservists, retirees, veterans, and their families in the CNMI.

“It will have more space and

we can now we can increase the items that we offer and bring new products to see if the people would to buy them. I also heard that people [in the CNMI] love cold beverages, the new store will have more cold storage space,” said Fair.

He said that AAFES is not always for profit when it comes to building its stores. “We base our stores in customers and sales. We generate sales to support our operations cost to build stores. But we don’t do everything for profit.”

“We do this to serve troops and their families. We fund some stores from those stores who make lots of profit,” said Fair, who added that even other branches of the Armed Forces—Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard—are also welcome to avail the services of the store.

which raised the project budget to \$8,484,161.

EEMC Gilbane Federal vice president Daryl Greenway in his recent report to court, disclosed that field work for the pipeline project commenced in November 2015 and construction was substantially completed in May 2016, such that fuel could flow through the pipeline from the Port to power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Greenway said final construction activities on some pipeline appurtenances were completed last month, with file closeout/handover to CUC ongoing.

Greenway said the pipeline has passed all commissioning tests, including a leak test conducted last March 31 by a specialist independent third party firm, Hansa Consult of North America LLC.

CUC

From Page 1

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O’Brien, however, informed the federal court that costs would have increased further except that the Engineering Environmental Management Company (EEMC) agreed to cap its CUC pipeline costs to the payment requested in the U.S.’ instant notice and volunteered to forego the EEMC’s markup on costs above the \$8,482,161 budget ceiling.

In the U.S.’ comment on EEMC’s invoices, O’Brien said the additional costs of \$2,135,139.17, paid primarily to EEMC subcontractors and vendors, release to multiple factors ranging from encountering an

unexploded 500-lb. ordnance, human remains exhumations, and handling contaminated soil and buried drums.

O’Brien said the Task Order 2 (CUC pipeline) funding ceiling should be increased to \$10,617,300.17 to reflect the \$2,135,139.17 cost increase from the \$8,482,161 estimate.

O’Brien said notwithstanding these complexities, the pipeline construction was completed in an approximate six-month time frame beginning in November 2015.

The lawyer said to ensure adequate funding for the pipeline, the U.S., CUC, and the CNMI government agree to support the Department of the Interior’s re-direction or re-programming of grant funding to pipeline from EEMC management and CUC Tank 103 project.

He said this would include

re-directing or re-programming \$300,000 from EEMC management and \$840,000 from Tank 103 project toward the pipeline.

O’Brien said the U.S. also requests the U.S. District Court for the NMI to authorize a \$995,139.17 pipeline payment from the Court Registry Account.

He said the combined total, or \$2,135,139.17 would reimburse the EEMC for all remaining pipeline costs.

O’Brien said the EEMC agrees that upon receipt of the \$2.1 million, the EEMC will not seek additional pipeline reimbursement.

The court originally issued the pipeline construction in February 2015 in the amount of \$4,595,000 and additional grant funds of \$3,887,161 were added in March 2016,

ARMY

From Page 1

of the two soldiers who died in Iraq 10 years ago.

The construction is a Congressional approved project for the military that has a price tag of \$7 million with \$5 million coming from the U.S. Army Reserve funds. The project aims to revitalize the existing reserve center to ensure troop readiness.

Curda, the Commander of the 9th Mission Support Command based in Fort Shafter in Hawaii, said the project was a long time coming and part of their efforts to improve the facilities of the Army Reserve Center here on Saipan.

“The project has three things in mind. First for safety, we’re making all buildings concrete and typhoon proof with Saipan being hit by a strong typhoon last year. All buildings will have concrete roofing,” said Curda, who served in various capacities in South America and Korea.

“It will then have a bigger space, an additional 3,000 square feet to have more facilities to help revitalize the Army Reserve unit here in the CNMI. It will have spaces for classrooms, work and offices, and storage,” he added.

The third is part of the Army’s Going Green campaign as energy efficient lights, solar panels, and plumbing fixtures will be installed. “The Army is going green that’s why we’re going to use energy efficient with the lights, low cost toilet and plumbing materials, and heaters.”

Capt. Stephanie Jones, Joint Region Marianas regional engineer who represented Joint Region Marianas commander Read Adm. Bette Bolivar, said the groundbreaking ceremony yesterday represents the strong partnership of the

Armed Forces and the CNMI.

“Improving the facility is part of securing peace and toward a common goal to secure the region. We also reaffirmed the [CNMI-Armed Forces] partnership after Typhoon Soudelor where we helped in the recovery and rebuilding of Saipan,” said Jones, the project’s lead engineer.

CNMI Veterans Affairs Office director Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. said more units could now be assigned on Saipan with the new Army Reserve Center.

She also helped in the structural and architectural design of the project, which was awarded to Guam-based contractor Wolf Creek Federal Services. The project is expected to be completed in February 2017.

Wolf Creek quality control managers and site and health officers Esther Javellana and Emmanuel Sebastian said they would be staying on Saipan until the project is completed. “But of course we’ll return to Guam during weekends and if our office needs us,” said Javellana.

“We’re just going to make sure if the design is followed and everything on it is implemented. We got a sub-contractor here on Saipan for our construction personnel and other staff,” added Sebastian.

The project includes: enclosing buildings in concrete masonry walls and add concrete roof for typhoon resistance; adding a new assembly hall connecting the two existing buildings; installation of solar panels, solar hot water heater, energy efficient lighting, and low flow plumbing fixtures; installation of additional air-conditioning to the remainder of the administration building; construction of new single bay maintenance building, unheated storage building, and break area gazebo.

GMS Scholar undergoes CDC internship

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's first Gates Millennium Scholar, Samantha

A'ani Birmingham-Babauta, is spending her summer as an intern under the Center for Disease Control's Undergraduate Public Health Schol-

ars Program. The program consists of six internship opportunities creating a public health workplace experience to increase student interest in minority health, according to the program's website.

As an intern under the Maternal Child Health Careers and the Research Initiative for Student Enhancement department, she will be focusing on eliminating health disparities and promoting healthy equity.

The 22-year-old recently graduated from California State University, Northridge, where she studied

Kinesiology with a concentration in Applied Fitness and Healthy Lifestyle.

"I have always been avid about fitness and healthy living since being in middle school. I played tons of sports throughout high school, and have been working in the fitness industry since I was 17," the Marianas High School alumna told *Saipan Tribune*. "... I found the field of Kinesiology and discovered that my calling was to use exercise as both preventative healthcare and prescribed medicine to those

with chronic diseases."

In preparation for the intensive program, Birmingham-Babauta also spent time training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland and the Center of Disease Control office in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Since I'm coming from a kinesiology background wanting to pursue a Masters in Public Health, I thought this program would be advantageous to my future goals," she explained. Birmingham-Babauta will take part in tasks ranging from education and

outreach to policy advocacy and program development.

She wants to remind the islands' youth that success will follow passion. "If the passion is there, then the success will follow. Don't expect to have a smooth journey, and stay open minded to change," she said.

She added that her future plans include returning home to give back to the community.

"Hopefully that is sooner than later, but currently, I am focused on obtaining the most experience and knowledge to be able to give back in a way that is effective in addressing the health disparities in our community," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's first Gates Millennium Scholar, Samantha A'ani Birmingham-Babauta, recently graduated from California State University, Northridge, where she studied Kinesiology with a concentration in Applied Fitness and Healthy Lifestyle.

Air Force to conduct training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla July 15 from 2:30pm to 10pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and

unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. **(PR)**

Bordallo applauds THAAD deployment to S. Korea

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday issued the following statement regarding a joint decision by the United States and South Korea to deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD) to the Korean Peninsula. This deployment is in addition to the THAAD that is permanently stationed on Guam.

"I applaud the joint decision by U.S. and Korean officials to deploy a THAAD to the Korean peninsula. This is

necessary to protect our servicemembers, civilians, and interests, as well as those of South Korea from the ever-present North Korean nuclear threat. We know how valuable THAAD is on Guam and this deployment will complement the battery permanently stationed on our island. We must continue to counter proliferation in the region and use our influence and capabilities to ultimately end the North Korean regime's increasingly aggressive and destabilizing actions." **(PR)**

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Probable cause found to charge man of sexually assaulting 1-year-old girl

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charge against Austin Kosam, a 22-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting a one-year-old girl.

At a preliminary hearing, Camacho found probable to believe that the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree was committed and that Kosam may have committed the said offense.

Camacho ordered Kosam to answer the charge.

The judge noted that assistant attorney general Shannon Foley was prepared in making sure that all the elements of the offense were presented as evidence.

Foley called to the witness stand veteran police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, who narrated to the court the circumstances that led to Kosam's arrest.

Camacho said there are four different categories or degrees of sexual abuse of a minor.

He said each degree of sexual abuse of a minor has different elements or sub-parts.

The judge said to establish probable cause for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, the government must present evidence of the date of the offense, the offense happened in the CNMI, Kosam was 18 years or older, the

allege victim was under 16 years old, there was sexual penetration however slight of the allege victim's private part, that defendant was a member of the household or that the allege victim was aware of defendant's position of authority, and that the allege victim must have knowledge of that position of authority.

Camacho said the government was not charging Kosam under the sub-section of posi-

tion of authority.

Foley moved to dismiss without prejudice the other charge—assault and battery—because it is a lesser included of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. It means that it is not necessary to charge assault and battery as such charge is already included in the sexual abuse of a minor.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Kosam, did not object to the dismissal.

Camacho granted the dismissal without prejudice.

After the hearing, Kosam was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections. Arraignment will be on July 18 at 9am.

Police arrested Kosam in Kannat Tabla last July 5 for allegedly sexually assaulting the baby last July 4. The court imposed a \$20,000 cash bail.

Police said the 1-year-old girl was crying in pain as her private part was swollen.

In the footnote of his order yesterday, Camacho compared the issue of the government's preparedness in Kosam's case to the case against former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and former police officer Jesse S. Concepcion.

The judge noted that in the case against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion involving the same charge, during the preliminary hearing the prosecutors failed to completely present all the essential elements of the offense.

Camacho said when the government fails to present all the essential elements at the preliminary hearing, the law requires that the charge be dismissed without prejudice.

Camacho said when a charge is dismissed without prejudice it means that the Office of the Attorney General can re-file the case.

As of yesterday, the judge pointed out, the OAG has not re-filed the charges against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion.

Camacho found no probable cause as to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and other charges against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

BSI-CSR holds 'Massive Beach Clean Up'

On Saturday, July 9, community volunteers joined Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility team's "The Massive Beach Clean Up" on four locations—PauPau Beach in San Roque, 13 Fishermen Monument in Garapan, San Antonio Beach in San Antonio, and Marine Beach in Kagman. *(PR)*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-Corporate Social Responsibility team collaborated with the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club and the NMI Rollers Youth Basketball team last Saturday to clean the 13 Fisherman Monument stretch along Beach Road, one of the beaches included in BSI's "Massive Beach Clean Up" event.



At PauPau Beach in San Roque.



CSR representative Jay Aldan and a few members of the NMI Rollers Youth Basketball team.

The CSR team poses with the NMI Rollers Youth Basketball members and few village volunteers after a successful clean up at San Antonio Beach.



DONATION TO CLI

Bridge Capital, LLC is pleased to present \$500 to the Center for Living Independently as part of its continued commitment to the local community. Bridge Capital is proud to support the center and its important work providing skills training to persons with disabilities in our community. In photo are CLI CNMI executive director Lydia D. Igitol, administrative assistant Chanele Cabrera, volunteer Deolina Selepeo, consumer Timothy Baker, and Bridge Capital, LLC chief operating officer Jody Jordahl.

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Purification ceremony held to heal wounds of war

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five Shinto Buddhists held a purification ceremony last Thursday with the hopes of exorcising the horrors of World War II, and that the remains of those who died be found and given proper burials.

The ceremony, held in a vacant parking lot beside Aqua Resort Club, was part of non-profit organization Kuentai's visit on Saipan. Kuentai's mis-

sion is to locate the remains of all of those who remain missing during World War II.

The Buddhists, led by Revs. Yoshinobu Miyake and Norimichi Uemura, did a *harae* or *harai* that involved using an *onusa* or *haraigashi*—a large paper shaker.

Venerable Hakuga Murayama, Ryushin Onishi, and Naomichi Ueda recited a mantra in Sanskrit before the main prayer, recited in Japanese, while also offering

the Tamagushi or the sacred twig made from the sakaki tree branch.

Murayama, Onishi, and Ueda led the chanting of the famous Mahayana Buddhism's Heart Sutra, while those who attended the ceremony alternated in offering incense. The ceremony ended with a dedication of the souls who died for eternal peace.

Japanese Consul Toshio Matsumura, Lt. Gov. Vic-

tor B. Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Kuentai president Takeshi Nishida, chairman and secretary general Usan Kurata, Kuentai USA secretary general Yukari Atsuka, Guam Japanese Association representative Satsuki H. Perez, and CNMI Governor's Office press secretary Ivan Blanco were some who offered incense.

The prayer's translation in English: "When I hear the sounds of the waves on the

ocean in this remote island, I think of the souls of those who are not resting in peace. A war broke out on Saipan and the Japanese suicide attack was finally charged on July 7th 1944," is the start of the prayer's translation.

"The white beach was turned into bloody red, and those who sacrificed their lives were counted over 50,000 at the end.

"Now more than 70 years have passed, and we are right

here that used to be a battlefield. Today, Kuentai and the international religious fellowship are holding a memorial service, to wish an earliest return of the service members and to pay highest respect for those who bravely fought on the war and sacrificed their lives.

I express my deepest wish for a prosperity of the countries and eternal peace in the world," the prayer's English translation continued.

Mango Resort Saipan is going back to hotel operations after being fully booked for one year by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. for its managers, supervisors, dealers, and other employees.

The resort offers a month of special discounts and raffle prizes starting July 20. For only \$69 per room per night tax included, guests from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam can stay at Mango Resort, with a free early check-in and a free late check-out to spend whole days at the resort's unique salt-water pools. Mango Resort also offers a raffle for the chance to win one of the raffle prizes the resort has prepared.

Raffle tickets will be provided to every guest staying at Mango Resort or attending any private party at the resort in July and August.

On Sept. 1, Mango Resort will raffle off certificates for free room nights, Mango Resort's membership cards for Fitness & Pool, five-visit pool cards, and more.

Mango Resort is located in

Mango Resort back to hotel operations with local discounts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mango Resort Saipan, the only budget resort on Saipan, opened its door in the spring of 2014.

As Perdido and is just a two-minute drive from the Saipan International Airport. The only budget resort on Saipan opened its door in the spring of 2014—colorful, comfort-

able, affordable, eco-friendly.

Some of Mango Resort's unique features are its fully equipped kitchenettes in the spacious rooms and the salt-water pools that give an

ocean feel to relax and enjoy in a private and peaceful neighborhood.

All 86 rooms and apartments of Mango Resort have free wi-fi and satellite TV. The

price the resort offers to both local customers and visitors for the value of the services included is not only an affordable but unbeatable.

Elly Stoilova, general man-

ager, at the resort says, "Our goal is to ensure our guests feel comfortable and relaxed, like a home away from home".

Mango Resort offers to its guests a fitness room and a game room with complimentary activities for adults and kids such as table tennis, billiard, darts, mini-basketball, air-hockey and others, as well as a sandy kids' playground.

Outdoor, Mango Resort pools and court area have become one of the most popular places for locals and tourists throwing a birthday party or a family reunion, or just to barbeque with family and friends in the open air.

Mango Resort offers special packages for guest rooms and conference room rentals and outdoor events. The resort conference rooms turn out to be a favorite meeting place for various local and tourist incentive groups.

For beach-lovers, Mango Resort offers free shuttle bus service to the shores of the very best beach on Saipan, in Chalan Kanoa village, five minutes from the resort. (PR)

Global Victory rallies for West PH Sea today

In anticipation of the decision of the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration, a rally will be held today, July 12, at 4pm at Puerto Princesa City Baywalk.

The rally will begin with the marching and singing from Rizal Avenue corner Fernandez Street to Baywalk to celebrate the victory of the West Philippine Sea and the Filipino people as result of the decision of the United Nations Permanent Court Arbitration with regard to the arbitration case filed by the Philippines against China with regard to the West Philippine Sea issues, says Dr. Celia Lamkin, founder and Global chairperson of the National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS) and chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG) Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and American Samoa chapters. The same rallies will be held on Saipan, Tinian (CNMI), different cit-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and American Samoa Chapter founder and Global chair Dr. Celia Lamkin, left, with Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance and Global Filipinos in Diaspora Council

ies of the U.S., Canada, Japan, France, and Italy.

On Saipan, the rally will be held at the San Jose Intersection, Beach Road, Saipan, facing the West Philippine Sea, today, July 12, starting at 5pm onwards, with a simultaneous rally in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance and Global Filipinos in Diaspora Council, who is based in New York and the one who initiated the protest rallies on July 8, 2011 against China's bullying, is calling all Filipinos in the Philippines and overseas to join

in this victory rally.

The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS) has its objectives to assert the position of the Filipino Youth that fully recognizes the indisputable sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines over its claims in the West Philippine Sea in conformity with the international law and protect the rights and welfare of the different sectors in the West Philippine Sea such as those in the Kalayaan Islands in Palawan and Scarborough Shoal in Masinloc, Zambales. The NYNWPS upholds the territorial integrity of the Republic, cognizant to the importance of the West Philippine Sea to our national progress.

Recently, the NYMWPS organization has supported direct actions, rallies, marches, and protests against China for the territorial integrity of the republic. On June 22, 2016, the protest rally was organized by the NYMWPS at Masin-

loc, Zambales and attended by the fisher folk of Scarborough Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc, residents of Masinloc, NYMWPS officers, youth, public officials, and advocates of the West Philippine Sea.

This movement is for the democracy and justice for the right of every Filipino in the West Philippine Sea.

This rally will increase awareness amongst our youth and fellow Filipinos and to show to the international community Filipino unity, solidarity, and patriotism.

Schedule of Thanksgiving Masses for the Victory of the West Philippine Sea and the Filipino people in the CNMI are the following:

July 12 Saipan

- San Vicente Church, 6 pm
- San Jose Church, 6 pm
- Saint Jude Parish Church, Koblerville
- Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Susupe
- Kristo Rai Church, Garapan

- Santa Soledad Church, Kagman

- San Antonio Church, San Antonio

- Santa Remedio Church, Tanapag

Tinian

- San Jose Church, 8 am

Rota

- San Francisco de Borja, Songsong Village

Guam

- Saint Anthony Church, Tamuning 7 pm

Hawaii

- July 12, prayer offering, 12pm at Saint Peter and Paul Church, 800 Kaheha St., Honolulu, Hawaii

- July 17, Thanksgiving Mass 6pm at Saint Peter and Paul Church 800 Kaheha St., Honolulu, Hawaii

American Samoa

- July 12 Thanksgiving Mass Holy Family Church, Pago Pago 6am; 1am Manila time. (PR)

Greenstay's 2nd showcase ready in week's time

Greenstay Project is about to end its two-week sales event for existing clients that started when its sales office in Gualo Rai opened last June 25.

Considering the fact that a lot of clients come to the office for more information, Greenstay will be hosting a second showcase of two- and three-bedroom houses. All potential clients are warmly welcome to visit the second showcase.

"The construction of the second showcase should be ready in about a week's time from now," said Oliver Wang, operations manager of Skywalker Holdings Company.

The houses that will be available at the showcase will be the two-bedroom standard

and the three-bedroom comfortable—both of which are currently under construction in front of Ironwood.

Greenstay is also running an event on the CNMI Greenstay Facebook page called the "Greenstay Share And Win." The rules are simple: you must like and share your favorite picture out of the exterior designs of the two-bedroom houses. The designs have been posted. Prizes include \$50, \$40, and \$30 of Regal Cinema gift cards. The three with the most shared win.

It has been almost a whole year since Typhoon Soudelor impacted Saipan in a way that forever changed the lives of Saipan's residents. Many still

haven't fully recovered from the damage Soudelor left behind.

Skywalker Holdings Company created the Greenstay Project because of the housing issues Saipan faced after the typhoon. Since then, Greenstay sales department has entertained many interested clients looking for houses that are weatherproof, reliable, and eco-friendly.

For those who are interested to learn more about the Greenstay houses, contact at 233-8812 or email at greenstay.cnmi@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out on CNMI Greenstay Facebook, various events and prizes are waiting for you! **(PR)**

Fee waivers for Kagman, San Antonio NMC Info Session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming Info Session workshops will qualify to have their NMC Fall 2016 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

The information sessions, which are open to all prospective students and community members, will provide information about NMC's admissions process, finding money for college, and NMC's degree programs. There will also be a discussion about NMC's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, which awards college credit based on an evaluation of college-level knowledge and skill individuals have gained

outside the classroom.

The info sessions will be held on the following date and time:

■ Wednesday, July 13, 2016, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Kagman Community Center

■ Thursday, July 14, 2016, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room

Additional information sessions will also be held at other locations and islands on the following dates:

■ Monday, July 18, 2016 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Sinapalo Youth Center (Rota)

■ Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at As Paris, Songsong Village (Rota)

■ Monday, July 21, 2016 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Tanapag Youth Center

■ Thursday, July 28, 2016 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's As Terlaje Campus, Room D1

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions, will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. **(PR)**

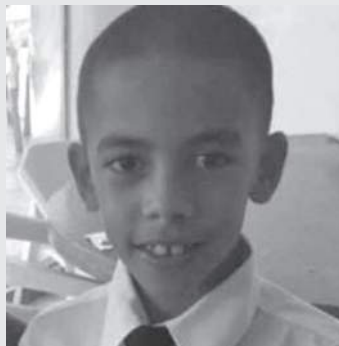


TRIPLE J DONATION

Triple J Saipan, Inc. donated \$5,000 to Garapan Elementary School. Sophia Dela Cruz, manager of Sandy Beach Homes, hands the check to principal Mrs. Liela C. Yumul. Also pictured are Triple J accountant Ian Obnimag, Special Projects analyst, Perry Inos Jr., Hertz general manager Alex Camacho, and Laura Matsunaga, GES secretary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy, happy 8th birthday to our boy, Ardonn Josiah! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come! Hope you enjoy your special day! We love you, the family!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday and God bless to my youngest son Logan Luke Jones. From Daddy, Mommy, and brother Tatum Mamet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 2016.

Names

Aleksandra S Vorobeva	Julian B Salalila
USA Builder Inc	Pengcheng Wu
Tacticor LLC	Zenie Palacios Mafnas
Zecuron LLC	Peter S Rran/Li Wen Tang
Vitoria International Corporation	Epiphania Jr Estolano Cabrera
Sylvano Litulumar	Qingxin Chen
Augustus D Lose	Ignacio Babauta Camacho
Cheng S Qian/Momi L Phillip	Ronald Antonio S D Cruz
Zhi Yuan Li	MD K Islam
Abed Younis	Mary Jean C Florento
Nelson A Rios/Suwei Shan	M S Villagomez Inc
Debra Taitano Diaz/Roxanne P Diaz	Carina Sanchez/Laurence Lauron
George A Aguon/Rumei H Aguon	Chung Liang Chiu
MD A Mabud	Mary Hazel Basa Garcia
Hyoumin K Oh	Maria Q Cruz
Donald R Browne	Sylvia King Biz/Marcelino P Biz
Yeow C Chua	Shiro Niwa
Soular Freedom Inc	Armia S Yacoub
First Lady's Vision	Ray S Lazaro/Teresita S Lazaro
A H Corporation	Jay Jess San Nicolas
Voices of the CNMI	Cristobal S Inos
Suzuki Foundation	Randy Jesse SN Taisacan
Pacific Solutions	Sablan Enterprises Inc
Inter Islands International, LLC	

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2016 will be paid to the "CNMI TREASURER" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2016 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

Bank of Saipan



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

BUDGET AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Justice of the CNMI Judiciary on Saipan. The candidate will provide leadership, guidance, technical expertise and team coordination to support implementation of the CNMI Judiciary's strategic initiatives in the areas of fiscal management, budget analysis, financial reporting, procurement, fiscal control, auditing, grant writing and performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate should hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university in accounting, finance, and/or business administration supplemented by a minimum of three (3) years of progressively responsible accounting, financial, or experience. Leadership experience in public sector financial management, budgeting, and fiscal analysis preferred. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be \$42,000 – \$50,000 annually depending on qualification and experience.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will close on **July 26, 2016**. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Opinion

Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 137Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

China's clampdown: A vile persecution of Hong Kong booksellers

In the last year, the Chinese authorities have cracked down on Hong Kong's once-raucous publishing industry. At least five prominent booksellers have disappeared — one from a busy Hong Kong street, another from a border area and one at a seaside apartment in Thailand. Others were picked up after crossing into China for personal or professional business.

The detention of these men — China insists that they all entered China “voluntarily” to help authorities investigate subversive authors — is a violation of the “one country, two systems” framework worked out with Britain when the former colonial power returned the territory to China in 1997. Under that treaty, Hong Kong was supposed to remain relatively free from Beijing's authoritarian control. Instead of guaranteed autonomy, the disappearance of the booksellers highlights Hong Kong's vulnerability. The kidnappings have profoundly shattered the illusion in Hong Kong society that its democracy would continue to thrive under Chinese control.

Lam Wing-kee, the former manager of Causeway Bay Books, resurfaced in Hong Kong last week after a half-year absence. On a visit to the mainland in October, he was seized at a border crossing. During the time Lam was gone, his store closed. It had been popular with locals and foreigners because it was a place where you could find salacious biographies and exposes of the Chinese elite that weren't available in China.

Lam said that Chinese authorities allowed him to return to Hong Kong to retrieve a hard-drive that contained information about dissidents and its customers. Instead of returning to the mainland with the information, Lam called a news conference Thursday and revealed details about his forced internment in China. He spoke of his five months in solitary confinement before being moved to an isolated apartment. He told of 24-hour surveillance and signing away his right to a lawyer, forbidden to have contact with his family. He even signed a “confession” implicating one of his fellow captives.

Now safely back in Hong Kong, Lam is adamant he will never return to the mainland of his own free will. Meanwhile, his harrowing account confirms the worst suspicions most Hong Kong citizens have about Beijing and its intentions. His bravery is commendable, but it is up to the international community to insist that China honor its international agreements and respect the rights of the citizens of Hong Kong.

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CHARLOTTE BERBER ©2016

VIDEOS OF POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST BLACK CITIZENS:



VIDEOS OF JUSTICE RENDERED IN THOSE CASES:



Germany's integration problem

BERLIN—On a trip to the beach, a German friend recently saw two teenage Afghan refugee boys stare in shock at female bathers in scanty bikinis. She overheard one youth agitatedly ask the German volunteer accompanying him: “Where are their fathers? Where are their fathers?”

The good news is that the boy spoke German and had a German friend who could explain the culture gap between Afghanistan and Europe.

The bad news is obvious: Germany has an overwhelming task trying to integrate many of the million or so Muslim migrants who arrived in 2015.

And a debate has gone public over a subject that was once considered unmentionable in public here: whether Islamic precepts are compatible with the West.

A sizable number of migrants are from the educated middle class, especially those arriving from Syria, around 40 percent of the total. But many others are young men from poorer backgrounds in Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan. They were sent ahead to establish a family beachhead in Europe — or escape the army. A good number are unaccompanied minors.

Many Germans — not just members of the anti-immigration or populist movements — worry that such youths are tempting targets for Islamists. They also wonder whether the gap between Germany society and conservative Arab Muslim cultures may be too wide to bridge.

“Fear toward Islam is increasing in Germany,” says Thomas Volk, coordinator on Islam and religious dialogue at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. “Fifty-seven percent of the non-Muslim population thinks Islam is dangerous or very dangerous. In May a poll showed that 60 percent think Islam doesn't belong to Germany.”

Those polled don't distinguish between Islamist ideology and the Muslim religion, says Volk.

The German public's warmth toward refugees faltered after a New Year's Eve episode in Cologne, where hundreds of young Arab men accosted German women during street celebrations. The men were mostly North African, not war refugees, and many were here illegally.

Yet this awful event also spurred a necessary public debate about how to integrate the newcomers quickly — and how to avoid the emergence of Arab Muslim ghettos, or “parallel societies,” as the Germans call them, where Islamists — or criminal gangs — could take root.

At present, the government sees providing jobs for immi-

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



grants as the main antidote to Islamization. But it appears to be paying less attention to another critical issue: Who will fund the mosques and imams that serve the new influx of Muslims? At present, around two-thirds of Germany's roughly 4 million Muslims (5 percent of the population) are of Turkish descent, and Turkey's religious ministry provides around 900 imams.

This arrangement was long viewed as satisfactory until the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan began Islamizing what had been a secular country.

However, the new immigrants are largely — though not all — Arabic speakers. The German press reported last year that Saudi Arabia offered to build 200 mosques in Germany for the newcomers (the Saudis have denied this), which sparked controversy.

In an astonishingly frank interview with the German newspaper Bild am Sonntag in December, Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel warned: “We have to make clear to the Saudis that the time of looking away is over. Wahhabi (Islamic fundamentalist) mosques all over the world are financed by Saudi Arabia.”

However, a proposal by the conservative Christian Social Union party that Germany ban foreign funding of mosques and train its own imams gained little traction.

This is a hot-button issue that won't go away.

Four theological schools have begun training German-speaking imams, leading some to hope Germany can produce a unique variant of European Islam that emphasizes tolerance and the peaceful aspects of the religion.

However, the largest Turkish Muslim association in Germany has made clear it will not accept the newly minted imams. It is also unclear whether they would be welcomed in mosques created for Arabic newcomers.

They might still prove immensely valuable in teaching “European Islam” in schools, since religious education is required in Germany. At present, official Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish

See GERMANY on Page 11

Black Lives Matter wins by bullying gays

On Sunday, Black Lives Matter activists pulled off the sort of victory that right-wing hooligans could only hope to achieve: They stopped a gay pride parade.

"We are calling you out!" Alexandria Williams, co-founder of the group's Toronto chapter, shouted through a megaphone as the Black Lives Matter float came to a halt. Amid rainbow-colored smoke bombs, she accused event organizers of harboring "a historical and current culture of anti-blackness" — a curious claim considering how the festival welcomed Black Lives Matter as "guests of honor."

Black Lives Matter refused to budge unless pride organizers acquiesced to a list of demands, which included increased funding for black-related pride events, "prioritizing black trans women" in hiring, and "a commitment to more black deaf & hearing ASL interpreters." Surely, these issues — which are always "demands," never "requests" — could have been taken up before the parade. But dialogue has never been the preferred mode of communication for Black Lives Matter, not even, apparently, in uber-polite Canada.

It took only 30 minutes for festival organizers to surrender to this bullying. Gay rights activists are adept at challenging authority. Beginning with the very act of coming out, gay liberation's whole gestalt is defiance. That's easy to do when it comes to a government denying you basic equality. When their interlocutors are people claiming to be more oppressed, however, gay progressives are at a loss. Out-radicalized, they're utterly helpless.

The Toronto activists' list of demands mostly consisted of the usual progressive calls for money gussied up in the language of "social justice." More objectionable, however, was Black Lives Matter's insistence upon the "removal" of police floats and

booths from future gay pride events.

A week earlier in San Francisco, Black Lives Matter pulled out as the organizational grand marshal of the city's pride parade. Why? Too many police there to protect the event. Of course, the impetus for that increased police presence was the massacre of 49 people at an Orlando, Fla., gay nightclub by a terrorist pledging fealty to Islamic State. But to some activists, that's no reason for having police guard gay venues. "A real safety plan would have been attacking homophobia at its root," San Francisco BLM spokesperson Malkia Cyril told the San Francisco Chronicle. Presumably Cyril didn't mean sending the Marines to Raqqa, Syria.

The chutzpah here is contemptible. Gay groups honored Black Lives Matter with prominent roles at their pride events, and Black Lives Matter returned the favor by hijacking those events to further their own anti-cop agendas. Condemning the police as an inherently racist, homophobic institution is not only false and counterproductive, it also denigrates the many LGBT officers. "The support that I have from my peers and supervisors has been unwavering," gay Toronto policeman Chuck Krangle wrote in an open letter after the parade flap. "Police officers are significantly represented in the LGBTQ community and it would be unacceptable to alienate and discriminate against them and those who support them." (The chief of Toronto's police department, for what it's worth, is black, a fact I recognize will be utterly lost on BLM activists.)

Defenders of Black Lives Matter insist that the gay rights movement was birthed in protest against police harassment at Stonewall, and in Canada, amid riots triggered by raids on a gay bathhouse. Gay people, thus, should indulge BLM in its anti-police agitation. But invoking Stonewall and similar episodes of

By **JAMES KIRCHICK**

Los Angeles Times

James Kirchick (on Twitter @jkirchick) is a fellow with the Foreign Policy Initiative. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



historic police abuse only shows how far our two countries have come. In so many places around the world — Russia, and, most recently, Turkey — the police attack pride parades and arrest gay rights activists. In North America, police protect them.

The various parade shenanigans weren't the only attempts by hard-left activists to divert attention to an extraneous cause. At a vigil ostensibly convened to remember the victims of the Orlando mass shooting, an activist at the University of Missouri declared that she was "really nervous to get up here because there's a lot of white people in the crowd." She then proceeded to hector the mourners for not participating in "our racial demonstrations and our Black Lives Matter movement." Similarly, gun control advocates have exploited the Orlando attack by enlisting gay rights organizations in their cause, ignorant or heedless of the possibility that many gay people might disagree with their aims.

Perhaps now that they've largely won legal equality, gay rights groups feel comfortable affiliating with radical outfits such as Black Lives Matter. But such ideological promiscuity comes with a cost. It's one thing to stand against police brutality. It's another to denigrate an entire city's police force as the reincarnation of Bull Connor. Gay people must ask themselves: Do they really want to be implicated with a movement that views the very concept of law enforcement as a racist conspiracy?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chocolates, independence, and assistive technology

"Mama always said: Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." —**Forest Gump**

If you haven't seen the movie, you should. As for those of us who have seen it, we know that Forrest Gump, the main character in the movie, was a person with a cognitive and physical disability who had a dream to run.

And while running can be quite an easy task for some, it was not the case for Forest Gump initially—it took him some time due to a physical disability. More specifically, Forest was born with a crooked spine that required him to use leg braces to correct is posture and to help him walk. The braces are also known to us as Assistive Technology (AT). One day while he was walking from school, he came across a bunch of bullies that taunted and started throwing rocks at him, and he was forced to run for his life. In doing so he literally broke free from the braces.

Of course that is the Hollywood version of a person with a disability "breaking free" and becoming more "independent." In reality, AT can help people with disabilities increase, maintain or improve their abilities and can lead to Independence. As advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy

Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), we constantly push our clients to become more independent and to become contributing members of society. For some it can be a challenge because they may not have the financial means to acquire helpful assistive technology —AT can be high tech (like powered wheelchairs, computers and specialized software/apps) or low tech (like leg braces, crutches, and simple hand-held contraptions to assist with eating and/or writing). Some devices can be purchased with Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance. In addition, agencies such as the Special Education Program for children under their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) under their Individualized Plans of Employment (IPEs) could help acquire these devices.

Sometimes the "processes" for availing of these programs can take time, but given the need and appropriate follow-through it should happen. Generally, NMPASI can assist with appeals if and when a person with a disability is denied services.

Forest Gump hardly ever knew what he was getting into from day to day, so "for no particular reason, (he) decided to go for a little run. So (he) ran to the end of the road. And when (he) got

there, (he) thought maybe (he'd) run to the end of the town. And when (he) got there, (he) thought maybe (he'd) just run across Greenbow County. And (he) figured, since (he'd) run this far, maybe (he'd) just run across the great state of Alabama. And that's what (he) did. (He) ran clear across Alabama. For no particular reason (he) just kept on goin'. (He) ran clear to the ocean. And when (he) got there, (he) figured, since (he'd) gone this far, (he) might as well turn around and just keep on goin'. When (he) got to another ocean, (he) figured, since (he'd) gone this far, (he) might as well just turn back and keep right on goin'."

The point is that the best way to know how far a person can go, first he has to try. For people with disabilities, acquiring the right kind of assistive technology can make all the difference. And, like a delicious box of chocolates...life becomes that much sweeter.

For more information on assistive technology, please call NMPASI at 235-7273/4 (voice), 235-7275 (fax) or visit us online www.nmpasi.org

Cleo Nening

Client advocate

Paying taxes are vital

My name is Sherilyn Beceril and one of my concerns occurring within our government system is the taxes needed to be paid. You see, taxes are for the education of others and the growth of our CNMI. Although, those entering college need to pay for their classes and for the purchase of materials needed depending on what course they're taking. Yes, the government does provide but the question is, is that enough? Students yearning for education are sometimes forced into a position in where they have to push education aside due to their budget and other expenses. Collecting taxes is for the benefit of our CNMI and others may say that they are the ones who change the fate of others. Although, how may they

be suitable to change the future of others if taxes suck all of their money to pay for others instead of benefitting their education/life.

This issue affects everyone, but to relate to this I would like to talk about myself in this position further into the future. I was born and raised here as a U.S. citizen. There is no doubt that I may be eligible for scholarships, but what if I weren't qualified. I would have to pay for my education and for the education of others instead of focusing on my future and the future of my siblings and parents. I would receive some benefits from our government, but I doubt that it'll be enough to satisfy for my thirst for education. We (my family) are now in somewhat of a pool of debts to pay off plus for the payment of taxes, which doesn't really help if I had to be truthful. The government until now hasn't even covered up the holes in the road, what more the

development of our community.

I understand that our government isn't the best but I just hope that they could try harder to solve this issue. If I were asked to provide a solution to this, I would say that they should provide money to those having an influx of money problems. For example, since Best Sunshine is growing rapidly, they receive lots of profit. Since they want the trust of others, they tried to take care of a portion of payment in our CUC bill, which is needed to be paid every month. Or since everyone is paying taxes, they should provide more of a variety of courses provided in NMC to make it seem like something worth paying for. Any solution to this issue would be much thankful for.

Sherilyn Miranda Beceril

Chalan Kanoa

GERMANY

From Page 10

religious bodies oversee training of teachers who give religious instruction in public schools.

But there is no one organization that speaks for all Muslims in Germany. "Maybe the way is to emphasize training in schools," says Deniz Nergiz, a Turkish-German expert on integration,

"where these new theologians would teach, but would not be in the mosques."

The question of how to ease young migrants into German society and culture touches on the nerves of those who fear youths may be easy targets for radical proselytizers outside of school. Puritan salafi Muslims — of whom there are said to be about 9,000 in Germany — have been caught trying to infiltrate refugee shelters.

"We are afraid of recruitment, particularly among unaccom-

panied minors," says Deidre Berger, the Berlin representative of the American Jewish Committee which has concerns about threats to Jewish life in Germany.


Can the Afghan boys on the beach find a way into German society where they can practice their faith but don't feel alienated by their surroundings? And can the debate over clashing cultures be addressed without encouraging a racist backlash that alienates those whom Germany is trying to integrate?

At this point no one can say.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲90° ▼80°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲90° ▼79°


THURSDAY



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲89° ▼79°


FRIDAY



Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

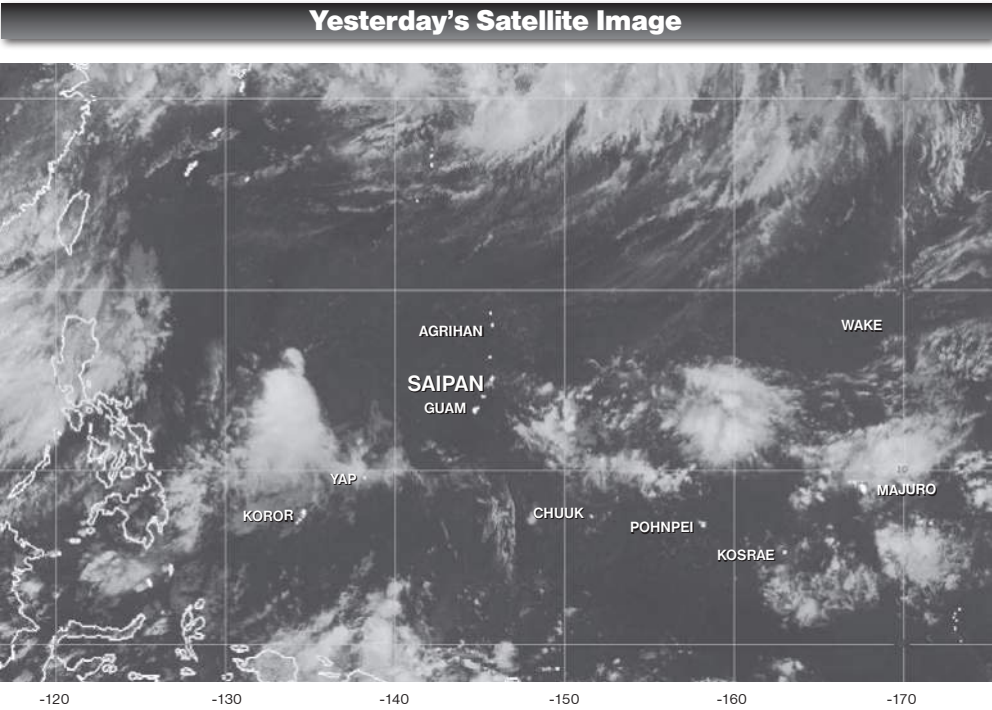
▲89° ▼79°

SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲89° ▼80°



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs northward from EQ132E to a weak circulation centered west of Koror near 9N132E, then turns northeastward through another circulation centered northwest of Yap at 14N136ETO end west of the northern Mariana Islands at 20N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the second circulation north of Koror and Yap within 200 miles of a line from 9N130E to 12N134E to 16N135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near the trough south of a line from 1N133E to 4N141E. A third circulation is centered just northeast of Weno Island in Chuuk state near 9N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found from northwest to northeast of the circulation within 150 miles of a line from 12N148E to 14N162E. Scattered showers are evident near the circulation between 9N and 11N from 151E to 157E. Trade-wind disturbances are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Enewetak and Utirik atolls within 120 miles of a line from 9N164E to 12N173E, and also just south of Majuro within 85 miles of 5N171E. Widely scattered showers are happening farther east between 9N and 12N from 173E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▼ 83	▲ 92
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 81	▲ 86
Yap	Cloudy	▼ 79	▲ 89
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▼ 80	▲ 87
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▼ 76	▲ 88
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▼ 82	▲ 87
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▼ 81	▲ 86

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▼ 49	▲ 58
Beijing	Showers	▼ 76	▲ 94
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 83	▲ 88
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▼ 72	▲ 83
London	Showers	▼ 56	▲ 66
Los Angeles	Clear	▼ 65	▲ 78
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 81	▲ 90
Melbourne	Showers	▼ 44	▲ 54
Miami	Cloudy	▼ 83	▲ 89
New York	Partly Sunny	▼ 69	▲ 84
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 76	▲ 88
Paris	Showers	▼ 59	▲ 69
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 76	▲ 79
Rome	Sunny	▼ 69	▲ 94
Salem	Cloudy	▼ 57	▲ 71
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▼ 56	▲ 70
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▼ 73	▲ 89
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▼ 72	▲ 86
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▼ 69	▲ 86

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.82 Feet
8:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.65 Feet
1:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.72 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Tuesday	12:23 PM	
Wednesday	1:10 PM	12:30 AM
Thursday	1:58 PM	1:09 AM
Friday	2:47 PM	1:50 AM
Saturday	3:36 PM	2:34 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota		
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily		
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily		
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily		
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7		
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4			UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM		
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM								
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM								
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4		
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7								

'Battle Trip' in CNMI to air on July 23 in Korea

The Korea Broadcasting Systems (KBS) TV entertainment travel program "Battle Trip" will air its episode recently filmed on Saipan on July 23, 2016, bringing an estimated \$1.3 million in ad exposure to the Northern Mariana Islands. The 60-minute broadcast, negotiated by the Marianas Visitors Authority, is accompanied by newsletter and press release distribution and social media postings by participating celebrities.

"Battle Trip" is just one in a continuing list of Korean television shows the MVA has negotiated with to film in the Northern Marianas, which is a great plus for our marketing and promotions," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Through these negotiations and with the support of our industry partners, we are able to collectively draw shows that highlight our unique attractions in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

On "Battle Trip," two groups of celebrities travel to two countries, each group with itineraries they develop under a given theme. After returning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Celebrities and film crew of the KBS TV show "Battle Trip" take a break with local ice "keki" (cake) at Garapan Fishing Dock in Saipan while filming on June 20-24, 2016.

from the trips, the two trips are presented to a studio audience, which then votes for their favorite. The filming crew visited the Northern Marianas from June 20-24, 2016, and covered major attractions and leisure activities on Saipan, with mention of Tinian and Rota, as well. The featured celebrities will be musician Lee Jae-hoon, producer/musician Muji, and media personality Yae Jung-hwa.

As the theme of the episode was "destination for couples," the MVA's office in Korea pitched activities that could be enjoyed by couples: snorkeling, scuba diving at Grotto and

Managaha, beach sunset BBQ, buggy tour, go kart, and more. The crew also filmed major tourist attractions in Saipan including Banzai Cliff, downtown Garapan, and Mt. Tapochau.

The filming was also supported by Jeju Air, Aqua Resort Club, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Kinpachi Restaurant, and the Dept. of Public Lands.

KBS is the national public broadcaster of South Korea. It was founded in 1927, and operates radio, television and online services, being one of the biggest South Korean television networks. KBS is one of the most influential media

organizations in the country in terms of sales and volume. KBS1, KBS' flagship channel, broadcasts news and current affairs, education, sports and culture, whereas KBS2 is an entertainment and drama channel. KBS2 is available on digital channel 7 via digital terrestrial television and "Battle Trip" will be aired via KBS2 with an anticipated 5-6 percent viewer rating; approximately 2.6-million viewers are expected to watch the program.

Lee, who acted as a guide for the other participants, is a renowned singer and media personality in Korea, who



Musician Lee Jae-hoon, producer/musician Muji, and media personality Yae Jung-hwa from Korea take a Let's Go! buggy car tour while filming the KBS TV show "Battle Trip" in Saipan on June 23, 2016.

debuted in 1994 as a member of the band Cool and who has over 42,000 Instagram followers. He has numerous hit songs, and renowned recording artist PSY featured one of his song, "Paradise." Lee has visited the Northern Marianas many times to scuba dive and is said to love the underwater environment of Saipan. Muji

is also a member of UV, a musical/comedic duo known for creating music with comedic lyrics that ran on a show on Mnet (cable TV channel) titled "UV Syndrome." Yae is a strengthening coach for Korea's National Football team and a media personality who has appeared on numerous TV shows for health and exercise. (PR)



The KBS TV show "Battle Trip" filmed at Aqua Resort Club in Saipan in June 2016 for an episode to air on July 23, 2016.

Guangdong Radio & TV films 'Yoga Retreat in the CNMI'

In celebration of International Yoga Day last June 21 and to enhance the awareness of the Northern Mariana Islands as a world-class, health-oriented island, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Dynasty Holiday hosted the first packaged beach yoga group from China to Saipan on June 24-28, 2016, to film "Yoga Retreat in CNMI."

Ten yoga lovers and an instructor comprised the group, along with three journalists/photographers from Guangdong Radio & TV (GRT) station, who shot a short film. "Yoga

Retreat in the CNMI" will be released via GRT's Cruise and Travel channel, WeChat, and major websites including tencent.com, tudou.com and youku.com.

The tour kicked off with "sunset yoga" on the beach



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Guangdong Radio & TV filmed scenes for "Yoga Retreat in the CNMI" during sunset on the beach at Grandvrio Resort Saipan on June 25, 2016.

at Grandvrio Resort Saipan, where several local residents also joined the group.

"It was very low tide that day at 5:30 p.m., and all were a bit disappointed because the

beach didn't look as beautiful as expected," said MVA Marketing Specialist Laura Hsiao, who accompanied the group. "While practicing yoga, a light

rain fell, which was followed by golden sunlight shining through the clouds. As soon as they finished the lesson, everyone start taking photos of themselves in some yoga poses, having the gorgeous golden sunset above the ocean as background."

Early the next morning, the group went to Kilili Beach to practice yoga on paddleboards.

The yoga tour is part of the MVA's continuing promotion of sports tourism in the Northern Marianas. As a result of these efforts, approximately 70 runners from China joined the Saipan Marathon in April, a significant increase over prior years.

"We are very happy to see more Chinese visitors enjoying various sports in the islands, including diving, football, beach volleyball, fun



Yoga practitioners from China form a flower pattern in the water while practicing aboard paddleboards at Kilili Beach, Saipan on June 26, 2016. The group was filmed by Guangdong TV & Radio for "Yoga Retreat in the CNMI," which will be released in China.

runs, fishing, golf, and now yoga," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We have received enthusiastic response from a number of organizations and tour agencies in China interested in hosting more sports

events in the Northern Marianas to make their customers' vacations here more memorable and meaningful."

GRT has over 2 million daily viewers. The program is scheduled to air on Friday (July 15). (PR)



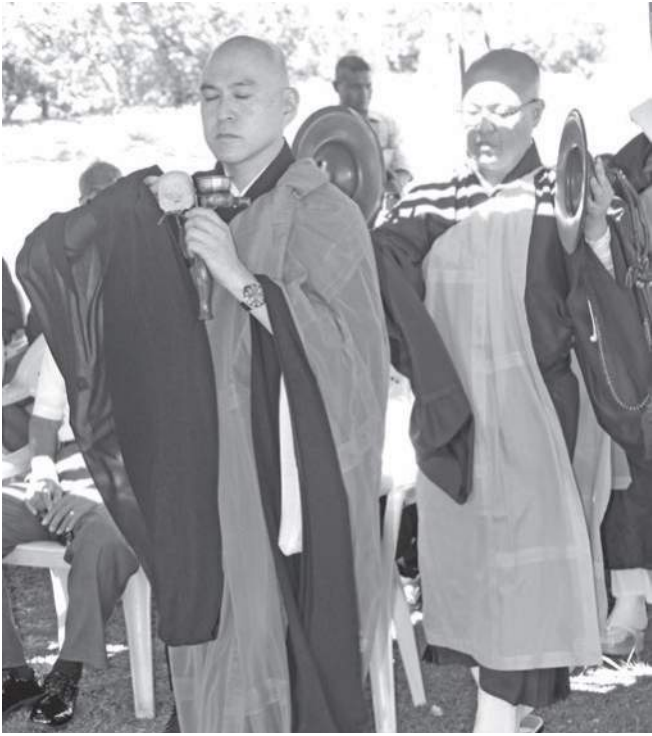
The pristine natural environment of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota make them an ideal location for holistic exercise such as yoga.



Yoga practitioners from China tour Banzai Cliff in June 2016 while being filmed by Guangdong TV & Radio for "Yoga Retreat in the CNMI," which will be released in China on July 15, 2016.

Shinto Buddhist Purification Ritual

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Shinto Buddhists make their way to the site of the ceremony during last week's purification ceremony held in a vacant parking lot beside Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.



CNMI Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, seated third left, and Japanese Consul to the CNMI Toshio Matsumura, seated second left, join Buddhist priests and monks, and members of Kuentai Japan and Kuentai USA for a group photo after the ceremony.



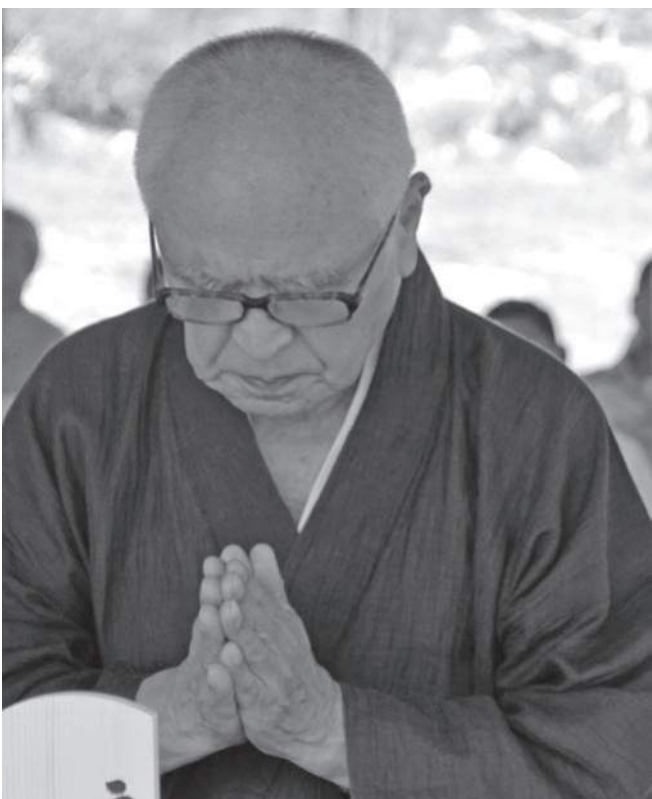
Shinto priest Rev. Norimichi Uemura begins the ceremony with the purification prayer.



Shinto priest Rev. Norimichi Uemura, right, waves the harae to bless, from left, Venerables Ryushin Onishi, Naomichi Ueda, and Hakuga Murayama.



From left, Venerables Ryushin Onishi, Naomichi Ueda, and Hakuga Murayama recite a mantra in Sanskrit.



A member of the Kuentai Japanese group pays his respects.



Japanese Consul to the CNMI Toshio Matsumura bows before offering incense.



Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog prepares to offer incense while Shinto Buddhist monks recite mantras.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the ceremony is part of the healing process.



Veteran Mariano Fajardo offers incense.

Business

G20 ministers call for rolling back of anti-trade measures

SHANGHAI (AP)—Trade ministers from the G20 nations called on Sunday to roll back anti-trade measures that have become more pervasive than any time since 2009.

Following a two-day meet-

ing in Shanghai, the ministers said in a joint statement that they're "concerned" about rising protectionism around the world and "significantly slowed" trade growth figures. They backed a set of nine core principles for glob-



Trade ministers and delegates attend the opening session of the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting in Shanghai Saturday, July 9, 2016.

Reorganization leads to burnout

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Ever since our manager reorganized the department, my job has become impossible. In addition to retaining all my previous duties, I have been given several new time-consuming responsibilities. I used to pride myself on delivering high-quality work, but now I'm struggling just to keep up with the backlog.

Although I make an effort to appear optimistic and upbeat, inside I'm a burned-out mess. I have tried to tell my boss how stressful this position has become, but he never seems to get the message. How can I make him see the hardship this change has created?

A: When describing workload pressures, employees typically focus on personal difficulties, saying things like "I had to work all weekend" or "I'm getting really burned out". However, the sad reality is that management usually worries more about the work suffering than the people suffering. This unfortunate lack of sensitivity obviously suggests a different approach.

Instead of lamenting your own stress, try to grab your manager's attention by highlighting the possibility of undesirable outcomes. First, prepare a detailed summary of both your old and new duties to show exactly how much your job has changed. Since your boss undoubtedly has other things on his mind, he may be less aware of this than you think.

Next, ask for a meeting to discuss priorities. Explain that your recently expanded responsibilities require you to budget time more carefully, so you would like his opinion on which tasks are most critical and which are less important. The unspoken subtext is that some things must fall at the bottom of the list.

If this conversation proves to be an eye-opener, perhaps your boss will eliminate certain duties or assign them elsewhere. But even if responsibilities remain the same, hopefully you will have a better understanding of his expectations and he will have a greater appreciation for your workload.

Q: Six weeks ago, I joined a small business where the owner is everyone's boss. This man is a nasty micromanager who treats his staff as something less than human. Previously, I have worked in large companies with several layers of management, so this is a completely new experience.

Recently, the owner berated me so severely that I actually went home sick. Ever since, I have felt physically ill whenever he's around. I deeply regret taking this position, but is it too soon to leave?

A: When you're accustomed to working in a big corporation, the transition to an extremely small business can be quite unsettling. Employees are generally at the mercy of the owner, as long as no laws are being violated. And certain employment-related statutes don't even apply to very tiny enterprises.

Of course, many business owners are wonderful people who value their employees and treat them well. But when you're working for an abuser, the resemblance to a dictatorship can come as a shocking surprise. If your new workplace seems to fit this description, then it's time to cut your losses and find a less crazy place to work.

al investment policymaking ahead of the September G20 summit in Hangzhou.

China's commerce minister, Gao Hucheng, speaking to the media on Sunday, also warned that the "global economy is faced with serious challenges and is undergoing a very slug-

gish recovery and growth."

The comments underscored growing concerns about the global economy and the trend toward rising trade restrictions, which have deepened since Britons voted to leave the European Union, raising fears of a global recession. In

his remarks, Gao did not mention Brexit, although Chinese leaders including the premier have recently expressed concern about the uncertainty that Britain's exit from the EU will bring to the world economy and markets.

Regarding what is currently

UK exit puts EU in limbo, unsure whether to do more or less

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union has known some crises in its time: the constitution that never was, impossible budget deals, debt devastating the Greek economy and threatening the euro currency, strife as nations failed to manage the continent's refugee emergency together.

But Brexit—a British exit from the 28-nation union—is the EU's biggest crisis so far. No country has ever left before.

Despite some speed bumps, the EU has grown from the six nations that founded a coal and steel community in 1951 to a half-billion strong trading bloc when Croatia signed up three years ago.

Now that the British decision is winding back more than 60 years of EU integration, no one knows exactly

how to pick up the pieces and move on. Should the EU do more or less? How should it interest people in a project that seems distant and difficult to understand? And is the bloc even to blame for this crisis when many simply aren't happy with their own governments, let alone distant Brussels?

In the background, Greece feels marginalized as its people suffer under tough reform policies imposed by creditors to save its debt-racked economy. Italy is bickering with Germany over whether that austerity is really necessary. And the Hungarians are going to hold a referendum on refugee quotas.

This is what European political limbo looks like.

While heads have rolled in Britain, where Prime Min-

ister David Cameron has resigned and the three leading figures of the "leave" campaign tumbled or quit, no one is stepping down in Brussels. With the July-August summer recess closing in, everyone is hunkering down and looking toward a summit of EU leaders in Bratislava on Sept. 16 to see what can be done.

The president of the EU's sprawling executive body—which over the years has proposed thousands of pieces of legislation that impact how citizens live, study, travel or do business—has been an early target for critics. Jean-Claude Juncker leads an administration of some 33,000 people. He and his policy commissioners are routinely portrayed as the embodiment of the unelected bureaucrat,

the most controversial trade spat, the ministers also said they recognized that excess steel capacity is a global issue that requires "collective response" and pointed to government support of producers that have led to "market distortions."

China, among other producers, has been accused by the U.S. and Britain of dumping cheap steel and driving down global prices. The U.S. has raised tariffs on Chinese steel, while Beijing has denied wrongdoing.

In June, the World Trade Organization urged the G20 economies to dismantle anti-trade measures, 1,583 of which have been erected since 2008, with just 387 removed during that time. New trade barriers are being erected at an all-time-high pace, the WTO added.

Also last month, the World Bank cut its forecast for the global economy this year, predicting it will expand 2.4 percent, down from the 2.9 percent it expected in January.

imposing inane, invasive laws on ordinary citizens.

Certainly many in Britain see it that way, even if most proposals are debated between member countries and the European Parliament—whose members are elected every five years—before they become law.

Yet Juncker, barely two years in office on a mandate to reform, is not going to fall on his sword.

"I refuse to allow the commission to be blamed for the outcome of the British referendum. We will not bare that responsibility," he told EU lawmakers Tuesday. "I haven't said that we want a 'United States' of Europe."

He said the Commission was endorsed by all member nations, including the departing Britain.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tesla CEO says he's working on another secret 'masterplan'

Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk, under pressure after a fatal crash involving one of his electric cars, went on Twitter Sunday to say he's working on another "Top Secret Tesla Masterplan." He said he hoped to publish details this week. The tantalizing message echoes an August 2006 blog post, titled "The Secret Tesla Motors Master Plan (just between you and

me)," in which Musk unveiled the cars that became the Tesla Model S four-door family car and the Tesla 3 sports sedan. Tesla and Musk have been hit with a recent string of bad news. Federal officials are investigating a May 7 crash in Florida that killed a man after his Model S's cameras failed to detect a turning tractor-trailer and did not automatically activate the brakes. (AP)

China inflation up

1.9 percent in June, slowest in 6 months

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese government data showed consumer prices in June rose at the slowest pace in six months, suggesting the world's second-largest economy is still experiencing weak consumer demand amid a broad downturn. The National Bureau of Statistics said Sunday China's consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.9 percent in June from a year earlier. Although the rate

was slightly above analyst expectations, it remained far below the 3 percent target set by Chinese officials for 2016 and offers the central bank flexibility to enact a new round of monetary stimulus that some economists have called for. The People's Bank of China has kept interest rates at record lows since October, when it also removed a deposit-rate ceiling for banks and lowered their reserve requirements to stimulate lending and growth.

Nation

Surviving Dallas officer recounts trying to save colleagues

DALLAS (AP)—Officer Jorge Barrientos never saw the gunman.

The assailant announced himself with a loud, single burst of fire from a rifle, just as Barrientos and his colleagues from the Fox Trot Unit of the Dallas Police Department were finishing directing traffic away from protesters at a march downtown.

The shot hit Officer Michael Krol, who stood just a few feet away from Barrientos. Krol screamed and fell to the ground.

Then the bullets began to fly.

They whizzed to the left and right, over his head and seemingly from every direction. Barrientos, 28, dropped to the ground, trying to make his way toward Krol and get cover. Not far away, two other officers from his unit lay shot and bleeding.

What followed were long, desperate moments to try and save his fellow officers. Ul-

timately, three men from his unit were among the five officers killed in Thursday's attack, which also left seven officers and two civilians wounded.

"These were my brothers," Barrientos said Sunday as he recovered at home from a bullet wound to his left hand, which was wrapped in a bundle of gauze. "I'm frustrated because I couldn't do more."

Barrientos, a four-year member of the Dallas Police Department, had been working with his colleagues in the Fox Trot Unit for the last six months. They responded to all sorts of 911 calls, growing close during long, tiring days in a busy city department.

The march against police brutality had been entirely routine. The Fox Trot Unit was doing what Barrientos said they always do: taking care of the community. Officer Patrick Zamarripa, 32, took a homeless man to a nearby 7-Eleven to buy him food, Barrientos said.

By around 9 p.m. the crowd was beginning to disperse. The men were expected to be discharged from their posts at an intersection any minute and go home to their families.

That was not to be. "Get down! Get down!" an officer cried as the first shots rang out.

Barrientos crawled for cover, though he didn't know exactly where to hide.

"He knew what he was doing," Barrientos said of the gunman, later identified as Micah Johnson, a black Army veteran who told police he wanted to kill white officers. Johnson was killed with a bomb delivered by remote-controlled robot after a standoff.

"He knew where he was firing from. He ambushed us in a manner that he didn't want us to see where he was," Barrientos said.

When the shooting appeared to begin dying down, Barrientos and his

Dallas suspect taunted police during 2 hours of negotiation

DALLAS (AP)—The suspect in the deadly attack on Dallas police taunted authorities during two hours of negotiations, laughing at them, singing and at one point asking how many officers he had shot, the police chief said Sunday.

The chief and the county's most senior elected official also said Micah Johnson had larger attack plans and possessed enough explosive material to inflict far greater harm.

"We're convinced that this suspect had other plans and thought that what he was doing was righteous and believed that he was going to target law enforcement—make us pay for what he sees as law enforcement's efforts to punish people of color," Brown told CNN's "State of the Union."

Johnson, a black Army veteran, insisted on speaking with a black negotiator and wrote in blood on the wall of a parking garage where police cornered and later killed him, Brown said.

The gunman wrote the letters "RB" and other markings, but the meaning was unclear. Investigators are trying to decipher the writing by looking through evidence from Johnson's suburban Dallas home, Brown said.

The writing suggested that Johnson was wounded in a shootout with police. An autopsy will confirm exactly how many times he was hit, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said.

Authorities do not "have

any independent report from an officer saying, 'I think I hit him,'" Jenkins said.

The police chief defended the decision to kill Johnson with a bomb delivered by remote-controlled robot, saying negotiations went nowhere and that officers could not approach him without putting themselves in danger.

Brown said he became increasingly concerned that "at a split second, he would charge us and take out many more before we would kill him."

The shootings marked the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In all, 12 officers were shot just a few blocks from where President John F. Kennedy was slain in 1963.

So far, the evidence points to the attack being a "crime of opportunity," Jenkins said.

Investigators believe Johnson had been practicing and training for a long time and probably learned of the protest from social media and concluded there would be many police present.

Authorities have said the 25-year-old gunman kept a journal of combat tactics and had amassed a personal arsenal at his home that included bomb-making materials.

The fact that Johnson had material for explosives and talked of using homemade bombs during the standoff with police indicated he could have inflicted more damage with more time, Jenkins said.

"If this had not been a crime of opportunity where the protest was quickly organized in response to events in the same week ... he could have caused a lot more harm than he did," he said.

Federal agents are trying to trace the origin of the weapons used in the attack, including a military-style semi-automatic rifle.

About 30 agents are also involved in identifying bullet casings, said William Temple, the Dallas agent in charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The large crime scene includes the parking garage where Johnson was killed and at least two other sites where he is believed to have fired at officers.

Johnson was a private first class with a specialty in carpentry and masonry. He served in the Army Reserve for six years starting in 2009 and did one tour in Afghanistan from November 2013 to July 2014, the military said.

The attack began Thursday evening while hundreds of people were gathered to protest the police killings of Philando Castile, who was fatally shot near St. Paul, Minnesota, and Alton Sterling, who was shot in Louisiana after being pinned to the pavement by two white officers.

Video showed protesters marching along a downtown street about half a mile from City Hall when shots erupted and the crowd scattered, seeking cover.

Recent police incidents involving black men



1 July 6, 2016, Philando Castile: Castile died Wednesday night after being shot by police. The immediate aftermath was shown in a video recorded by his girlfriend as she sat next to him. The video was widely shared on Facebook.

2 July 5, 2016, Alton Sterling: Sterling was shot by two white police officers — as he was apparently pinned to the ground — while hawking CDs in front of a convenience store.

3 Feb 29, 2016, Akiel Denkins: Denkins was shot by an officer who tried to arrest him on an outstanding felony charge. Officials determined Twiddy acted in self-defense, but some witnesses disputed that.

4 Feb 25, 2016, Gregory Gunn: An officer shot Gunn, who was unarmed, steps from his home.

5 Nov. 15, 2015, Jamar Clark: Clark died from a gunshot wound to the head after an encounter with two Minneapolis police officers. Some witnesses have said Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. A police union official said Clark was trying to grab an officer's gun when he was shot.

6 Aug. 7, 2015, Christian Taylor: The unarmed black Angelo State University football player was shot and killed during a suspected burglary at a car dealership.

7 July 19, 2015, Samuel DuBose: DuBose was fatally shot during a traffic stop for a missing license plate. The officer is awaiting an October trial on murder and voluntary manslaughter charges.

8 May 5, 2015, Brendon Glenn: An officer killed Glenn, an unarmed homeless man, as he was trying to push himself up off the ground.

9 April 12, 2015, Freddie Gray: Gray suffered a severe injury in the back of a police van and died a week later. Six officers were charged in Gray's death, but three have already been acquitted.

10 April 4, 2015, Walter Scott: A police officer shot Slager as he ran from a minor traffic stop. Video of the shooting resulted in charges against the officer.

11 Nov. 20, 2014, Akai Gurley: A police officer was convicted of negligent homicide when his bullet ricocheted off a wall, hitting and killing Gurley.

12 Oct. 20, 2014, Laquan McDonald: A police officer was charged in McDonald's death. McDonald was shot 16 times. Video of the shooting created an uproar in Chicago and nationwide.

Source: AP, Tribune News Service
Graphic: Staff, TNS

NAFTA a sore spot for some Democrats on Clinton in Michigan

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.

(AP)—Michigan is trickier than it may appear for Hillary Clinton, a Democrat whose party's presidential nominees have carried the struggling manufacturing hub for decades.

Bernie Sanders beat her in the state's Democratic primary by railing against the North American Free Trade Agreement. Republican Donald Trump is more popular with Michigan's working-class white voters than past GOP candidates, and has pledged to back out of the treaty some blame for the loss of countless Rust Belt jobs.

While Clinton's history of supporting free trade may not cost her the state, it is costing campaign staff and money to defend its 16 electoral votes.

"It's an issue that Sanders used to his advantage in the primary and obviously was successful," said Michigan Democratic organizer Amy Chapman, who was Barack

Obama's state director in 2008 and a senior adviser in 2012. "Obviously, it's something they need to figure out as they figure out what it takes to win Michigan."

Trump last week blasted the pact signed by President Bill Clinton and predicted that backing out would restore millions of vanished factory jobs.

At stake is the white, working-class vote, which Trump says he can turn out in droves, thereby putting upper Midwestern battlegrounds long carried by Democrats into competition in his quest for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

Trump says his appeal to disaffected workers has taken hold, and can put in play Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, states carried by Democratic presidential candidates since the 1980s.

Hillary Clinton supports renegotiating NAFTA, signed in 1992 and in effect since 1994,

colleagues began loading the fallen officers into patrol cars to rush them to the hospital. In the process, Barrientos was shot in the hand and struck by shrapnel in his chest.

He wrapped his hand in a bandanna and kept working.

"You don't have time to concentrate on being scared," he said. "I have a job to do. They're part of my job at that point. To save them."

One of the officers Barrientos tried to save had a bullet wound to his chest. In a desperate bid to try and prevent the officer's lung from collapsing, Barrientos grabbed the plastic from a box of cigarettes he keeps in his pocket and tried to use it to create a seal and stop the bleeding.

The officer was taken to the hospital, where he died, Barrientos said.

In all, the three men from his unit died—Krol, Zamarripa and Lorne Ahrens, a father of two married to a fellow officer.

Three days after the attack, Barrientos said he is not angry at the gunman, but angry at the situation. With Dallas now an epicenter for the nation's tensions over race, Barrientos said he wants people to know all the good that existed in the officers who died.

"God saved me that day," he said. "He had a plan for me to survive. Maybe it's to help spread what we do, how much love we actually have for people."

"But," he said, sighing deeply, "it's hard."

with Canada and Mexico. She also has said she opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious agreement with Asian nations.

But she also has demonstrated that Trump's argument is worth her time to rebut. Last week, Clinton criticized Trump's business practices and sought the help of U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Mich., to argue Trump's practice as a real estate mogul contradicts his talk.

"What happened in the Trump Casino in Atlantic City was the fact that he did not honor contracts," Lawrence told Michigan reporters after Clinton spoke in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "He did not pay for services."

Trump's trade position, a sharp departure from Republican orthodoxy, has the appearance of moving to Clinton's left on trade, and sounds an alarm for her to address the treaty in Michigan, say Democratic activists in the state.

Asia

Japan's ruling coalition wins election, promises revival

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's ruling coalition was a clear winner in Sunday's parliamentary elections, preliminary results and Japanese media exit polls indicated, paving the way for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to push ahead with his economic revival policies, but also possibly changing the nation's postwar pacifist constitution.

Half of the seats of the less powerful upper house were up for grabs. There had been no possibility for a change of power because the ruling coalition, headed by Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, already controls the more powerful lower house, but the balloting was a key gauge of how much support Abe's coalition has among the public. The opposition had called on voters to show their rejection of Abe's position to have a more asser-

tive military role for Japan.

According to the exit polls, the Liberal Democrats won 57 to 59 seats among the 121 that were contested. Its coalition partner Komeito won about 14 seats.

Combined with other conservative politicians, the coalition may win a two-thirds majority in the upper house, which would be critical to propose a referendum needed to change the constitution. Japanese broadcaster NHK reported that the Liberal Democrats may clinch the majority on their own.

Final results of the balloting aren't expected until early Monday.

Abe showed up before TV cameras at party headquarters, all smiles, to pin red flowers, indicating confirmed wins, next to his candidates' names written on a big board.

"I am honestly so relieved," he told NHK, promising new government spending to help wrest the economy out of the doldrums in a "total and aggressive" way.

He declined to give the amount for the spending. He also said discussions should start on changing the constitution to work out details.

With their pro-business policies, the Liberal Democrats have ruled Japan almost continuously since World War II, and until recently enjoyed solid support from rural areas. The few years the opposition held power coincided with the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters that devastated northeastern Japan. The opposition, however, fell out of favor after being heavily criticized for its reconstruction efforts.

18 dead in Indian Kashmir protests after top rebel killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—The death toll in Kashmir rose to 18 on Sunday as clashes between Indian troops and protesters continued despite a curfew imposed in the disputed Himalayan region to suppress anti-India anger following the killing of a popular rebel commander.

Anti-India protests have been reported from many places across Kashmir since Burhan Wani, chief of operations of Hizbul Mujahideen, Kashmir's largest rebel group, was killed Friday in fighting with Indian troops.

The dead included 17 civilians killed in two days of

clashes between angry, rock-pelting protesters who defied the curfew and Indian troops, a police official said. The other fatality was a policeman who was killed Sunday after protesters pushed the armored vehicle he was driving into a river during clashes in the southern Anantnag area, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters.

After the protests erupted, Indian troops used live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas to try and control the angry crowds, police said. More than 150 civilians have so far been

injured in the clashes.

Police intelligence chief Shiv M. Sahai said that protesters attacked several police and paramilitary posts in the region. Around 90 government troops were also injured, he said. Thousands of government forces in riot gear have fanned out across towns and villages in Kashmir.

Officials at the region's main hospital, in the city of Srinagar, said Sunday that they were dealing with a medical emergency as they tried to attend to at least 80 civilians admitted with bullet and pellet injuries, local media reported.

were working on a Malaysian fishing boat off Lahad Datu in the Malaysian part of northern Borneo. Sutiyoso, who goes by one name, said the kidnappers fled with their hostages into Philippine waters. Several crew on the fishing boat escaped and are now in Malaysia.

Thai news website says its reporter detained while reporting

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai news website said one of its journalists was detained Sunday by police in central Thailand while reporting on a group opposed to the military government. It said three activists of the group were also detained. Prachatai said in a report on its website that journalist Taweesak Kerdpoka was arrested while reporting on the New Democracy Movement in Ratchaburi province. It said the four were detained after police searched the activists' car and found copies of the group's booklet. It said the booklet provides "counter information" to the junta's position on a referendum it plans to hold Aug. 7 on a new draft constitution that has been criticized by many as undemocratic.

World

US urges Western Balkans strengthen their democracies

TIRANA, Albania (AP)—The United States has urged Western Balkan countries to intensify efforts to consolidate their democracies.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland on Sunday started a Balkan tour in Kosovo and will follow with visits to Albania, Macedonia and Serbia.

She urged Kosovo to further its dialogue with Serbia and also approve a border demarcation with Montenegro, a key step to convince European Union countries to let its citizens enjoy visa-free travel, according to a statement from President Hashim Thaci's press office. The European Commission announced in May that it had proposed adding Kosovo to the list of countries granted visa-free travel in the 26-nation Schengen area. That is subject to ap-



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, left, talks with Albanian Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati in Tirana, Sunday, July 10, 2016.

proval by leaders of EU member states and the European Parliament.

Nuland called on Kosovo leaders to strengthen the rule of law, the justice system and the fight against corruption and organized crime as "fundamental for Kosovo's advance."

In Tirana Nuland is the latest to pressure the coun-

try's opposition Democratic Party to accept a draft of the judicial package, considered fundamental to ensuring that the EU will launch membership negotiations with Albania. The Democrats want to give political parties the power to make judicial appointments, while the ruling Socialists want no party appointees.

Heavy arms fire rocks South Sudan capital, many casualties

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—South Sudan's capital was rocked Sunday by heavy arms fire between forces loyal to the president and those of the vice president, causing widespread casualties and raising fears the country is returning to civil war.

The fighting began in the morning and continued until about 8 p.m. local time, when a large thunderstorm seemed to put a damper on the violence, said U.N. mission spokeswoman Shantal Persaud. She confirmed that a U.N. armored personnel carrier was hit by a shell at a camp to protect civilians. U.N. peacekeepers in the vehicle were wounded, said

witnesses.

"The condition is really very bad. We have a lot of casualties this side, I think around 50 to 60 besides those of yesterday," said Budbud Chol who oversees security at a clinic in the base. "We have civilian casualties. We have rocket-propelled grenades that have landed in the camp which has wounded eight people." Among the wounded are five children and two women while the rest were men, he said.

At least one person has died in the camp, he said, but he did not know about casualties outside where the fighting was heavy between gov-

ernment troops supporting President Salva Kiir and opposition forces loyal to First Vice President Riek Machar.

The opposition side blamed government forces for starting the fighting Sunday morning with an attack on a rebel base in the Jebel area of the capital. Three helicopter gunships bombed rebel camps, said William Gatjiath Deng, a spokesman for the rebel forces.

South Sudan's army confirmed the Sunday clashes but it is not clear how the fighting started, said army spokesman Lul Ruai Koang, who is in the SPLA general headquarters at Bilpham.

Spanish matador fatally gored, first time since 1985

MADRID (AP)—A bullfighter was fatally gored in Spain in an eastern town—the first professional matador to be killed in the ring in more than three decades.

Victor Barrio, 29, was pronounced dead late Saturday by a surgeon at the Teruel bullring. Barrio was first gored in the thigh by the 1,166-pound (530-kilogram) bull's left horn and his body was flipped over.

He was gored a second time in the chest and the blow penetrated a lung and his aorta as the matador was on the ground.

Medics were at his side almost immediately, but attempts to save his life were

unsuccessful. The goring of Barrio was broadcast live on television and news of his death stirred widespread reaction ranging from the bullfighting community to politicians.

"My condolences to the family and colleagues of Victor Barrio, the deceased bullfighter this evening in Teruel. Rest in Peace," Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy tweeted.

Prominent bullfighter Enrique Ponce said he was "deeply saddened by the death of my colleague in the ring. Let God embrace him in all his glory. Great matador."

Participants at the famed

running of the bulls at the San Fermin festivities in Pamplona wore improvised black armbands in honor of the fallen matador while dashing along the streets on the way to the bullring on Sunday morning.

Festivities in Teruel were immediately suspended following Barrio's death, and Las Ventas, the Madrid bullring where he debuted back in 2010, posted a heartfelt remembrance of the young bullfighter.

He was the first professional matador to die during a bullfight in Spain since 21-year-old Frenchman Jose Cubero Yiyo was fatally gored in 1985 in Madrid.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon Nepartak batters China's coast, killing at least 6

BEIJING (AP)—At least six people were dead and 8 others missing after Typhoon Nepartak battered China's coastal Fujian Province with heavy rain and strong winds that toppled homes and triggered landslides, government agencies said. Fujian's water resources department said that more than 438,000 people had been relocated. Hundreds of flights and trains were canceled, while damaged power stations left swaths of the province without electricity. Nepartak, the first typhoon of the season, first struck Taiwan on Friday with even greater power, leaving two people dead and 72 injured.

3 Indonesians kidnapped by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants kidnapped three Indonesian fishermen on the weekend in the latest in a series of incidents highlighting weak security in the Cerebes Sea that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The head of Indonesia's intelligence agency said Monday that the men

Focus

MATTHEW PENNINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A case brought by U.S. ally the Philippines against China represents a diplomatic dilemma for far-flung nations. Ahead of a ruling Tuesday, Washington and Beijing have rallied support for their respective positions on the use of international arbitration in South China Sea disputes.

The United States has been building diplomatic pressure in the West and in Asia on China to abide by the decision by a tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. China, which maintains it won't be bound by the ruling, has been pushing back by building support from nations mostly in Africa and the Mideast.

The U.S. is not a party to the South China Sea territorial disputes, nor to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the tribunal has been formed, but says it wants China to play by international rules. Since there is no enforcement mechanism for the ruling, any impact will depend on how the international community reacts.

Here's a look at where dozens of countries stand:

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

ASEAN has been trying for years to achieve diplomatic solutions in the South China Sea, making little progress and exposing divisions in the 10-member bloc, which includes the Philippines. It is unlikely to reach consensus on the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling.

When President Barack Obama met ASEAN leaders in February they agreed on "full respect for legal and diplomatic processes" in accordance with the U.N. convention. But Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said in late June he opposes any ASEAN declaration to support the tribunal's decision and efforts by countries outside the region "to mobilize forces against China."

Vietnam, which has fought China over competing South China Sea claims, has been most supportive of the Philippines' case and submitted a statement to the tribunal. Hanoi has said it supports "full compliance" to the procedures of the convention.

But other ASEAN nations are generally wary of speaking out for fear of alienating China, the region's economic heavyweight. Malaysia and Brunei have said little about the case, though they too are South China Sea claimants.

Indonesia and Singapore are not claimants but have been a bit more outspoken. Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said last month that the ruling could have implications beyond the South China Sea and "we cannot subscribe to the principle that might is right." Indonesian President Joko Widodo has underscored his commitment to protect Indonesian sovereignty over its Na-



In this Sept. 23, 2015, file photo, Chinese Coast Guard members approach Filipino fishermen as they confront each other off Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, also called the West Philippine Sea. The Philippines' new president said Tuesday July 5, 2016, that Manila is ready to talk to China, not go to war, if an arbitration tribunal rules in its favor in a case it brought against Beijing's claims in the South China Sea.

tuna Islands at the edge of the South China Sea, where he flew last month after the Indonesian navy detained a Chinese fishing boat and arrested a group of Chinese fishermen. His Foreign Ministry has declined to say whether the ruling should be binding on both sides but says international law must be respected.

In another indication of ASEAN discord, its 10 foreign ministers agreed on a tough statement of concern on the South China Sea issue after meeting their counterpart in China. The statement was not issued publicly, however, after one or more had a change of heart while in China and withdrew approval of the communiqué.

Even the Philippines' position is unpredictable as a new government has just taken office. President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has expressed willingness to restart bilateral negotiations with China.

RUSSIA

Moscow, which shares China's suspicion of Washington, is Beijing's most prominent supporter on the issue although it has not explicitly said how it will respond to the tribunal's ruling. On a visit to China in April, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia is against any interference from outside parties in the South China Sea—a reference to the U.S.—"or any attempts to internationalize these disputes." Like China, Russia says disputes should be resolved through talks between the parties directly involved.

CHINA SUPPORTERS IN AFRICA, MIDEAST

China's state media has reported that about 60 countries have expressed support for China's stance on the arbitration case. The Foreign Ministry has in recent weeks given prominent mention to support it claims to have from nations principally in Africa, the Mideast and Central Asia.

But relatively few of those foreign governments have issued statements independently. Some, including Fiji and NATO member Slovenia, have disavowed China's description of their position.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said it could confirm official statements from Afghanistan, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Sudan, Togo and Vanuatu.

EUROPEAN UNION and G-7

The EU has urged all South China Sea claimants to resolve disputes through peaceful means and "pursue them in accordance with international law," including the U.N. convention. The Group of Seven wealthy nations, which comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.S. and the EU, has called on all states to fully implement decisions binding on them in courts and tribunals provided under the convention.

In June, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian proposed that European navies coordinate patrols in Asian waters to reinforce a rules-based maritime order. He warned that if the laws of the sea are not re-

spected in that region, they could also be challenged in the Arctic Ocean or Mediterranean Sea.

AUSTRALIA

In January, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the China-Philippines ruling will be "extremely important" as a statement of international principle and will "settle once and for all" whether artificial reefs are entitled to territorial waters.

China has built up several artificial islands to advance its sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Australia has been less outspoken in support of arbitration than the U.S., perhaps mindful of Australia's own resistance to arbitration to resolve its disputed maritime border with tiny East Timor.

INDIA

India has not issued a categorical position on the arbitration case, but has been broadly supportive of the application of international law. India shares U.S. concerns about Beijing's rising ambitions in the seas of Asia.

India's External Affairs Ministry says that "all countries must abide by international law and norms on maritime issues." India set an example in 2014 when it accepted a decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration that ruled in favor of Bangladesh in a dispute over the countries' maritime boundary.

JAPAN

Japan was an early supporter of the Philippines' pursuit of arbitration and

says both China and the Philippines should abide by the outcome. Japan sees that as upholding international law, but it also reflects concern that historic rival China seeks strategic control of vital sea lanes in the South China Sea that carry 80 percent of Japan's crude oil imports.

Japan's support of third-party dispute resolution is not universal. While it has sought to take its dispute with South Korea over the South Korean-held Dokdo or Takeshima islands to the International Court of Justice, it says no such action is needed in its dispute with China over the Senkaku or Diaoyu islands, which are administered by Japan.

SOUTH KOREA

Like Japan, South Korea is heavily dependent on fuel imports that pass through the South China Sea, but it has closer ties with China and has been less inclined to speak out. The Foreign Ministry says South China Sea disputes should be resolved under internationally established regulations and that it is "looking with interest" at the Philippine-China arbitration case.

TAIWAN

Taiwan has complained that the tribunal has not solicited its views. While Taipei officially exercises the same nine-dash line claim as Beijing in the South China Sea, it is primarily concerned about Taiping island in the Spratlys. Taiwan administers that remote land feature and is concerned it could be designated as a rock without the rights granted to islands.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

By **TROY WOLVERTON**
THE MERCURY NEWS

Toyota Mirai heralds new era of fuel-cell cars

SAN JOSE, Calif. — At first or even second glance, it's hard to tell there's anything special about Toyota's new Mirai sedan.

But the Mirai isn't a typical car. Instead, it's a fuel-cell vehicle, a kind of eco-friendly car that's been talked about for years but is rarely seen on regular roads.

That situation may be about to change because the technology has matured and more fueling stations are coming on line. I got to test drive a Mirai recently and got a sense of the current state of fuel-cell cars. I liked driving it, but it's pricey and in some ways impractical.

Fuel cells are devices that use a chemical reaction to strip electrons from the hydrogen in some kind of fuel to create electricity. Because the only thing fuel cells emit is water, they've been touted for the past 20 years or so as an ideal eco-friendly technology to replace gasoline-powered internal combustion engines in cars. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's hyping of the so-called hydrogen highway was an early effort to promote fuel-cell vehicles that would use pure hydrogen as fuel.

Despite backing from both the government and major automakers, the market for fuel-cell cars has been slow to take off. It took a while for the technology to mature. Government and corporations fought over who would pay to build hydrogen stations to fuel the vehicles. With few stations available, manufacturers were reluctant to build the cars in large quantities.

But the hydrogen highway is starting to see new life, at least here in California. Consumers can now fuel up at some 20 hydrogen stations around the state, mostly clustered in the



Troy Wolverton, Mercury News technology columnist, drives the 2016 Toyota Mirai, a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, in San Jose, Calif., on June 22, 2016.

Bay Area and Los Angeles. The California Fuel Cell Partnership, an alliance of government agencies, carmakers and other organizations that promote the technology, expects an additional 15 stations to open by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, carmakers have moved beyond small tests of early fuel-cell cars to starting to build and market thousands of more polished vehicles to customers. The Mirai, which first went on sale last fall, is one of the first of this new generation of fuel-cell vehicles.

What's striking about the Mirai is just how normal it seems. The first generations of Prius stood out because they looked different from other cars on the road. When it debuted, Tesla's Model S wowed drivers with its sudden acceleration and futuristic features like pop-out door handles and a jumbo center-console screen.

The Mirai has nothing like that. Except for a small "fuel cell" badge on its side, there's nothing on the outside and little on the inside that marks it as special. For the most part, it looks, feels and drives like a

midsize sedan.

That's not necessarily bad. To attract mainstream shoppers, it's probably not a bad idea to have a car that seems a lot like what they currently drive. And the Mirai does offer some advantages over other varieties of eco-friendly vehicles.

With its 151-horsepower electric motor, the Mirai feels peppy compared with my Prius. It's no Model S, but it will get you up to highway speed quickly enough. And the Mirai is wider than my Prius and feels roomier on the inside.

As with other electric vehicles, the Mirai doesn't directly contribute to greenhouse gases. Although most hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels, experts estimate that even when it is, a fuel-cell vehicle is better for the environment than burning gasoline.

The Mirai will go about 312 miles before it runs out of hydrogen. That's a similar range to the Model S and much farther than most other battery-powered electric vehicles. But it takes much less time to refuel the Mirai than to charge up a battery-powered car. You can

fill its hydrogen tanks in about five minutes; even with a high-powered supercharger, it takes about six times as long to only partially recharge a Model S.

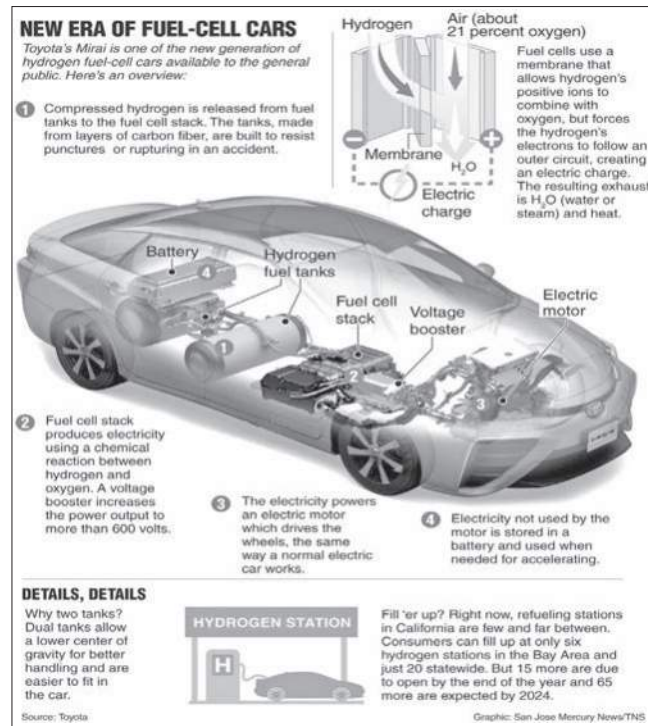
But this is still an early effort when it comes to fuel-cell cars. And the Mirai, as much as it may resemble a regular car, comes up short in significant ways.

For one thing, with a more than \$57,000 sticker price, it's pricey. Federal and state tax rebates can bring the price down by about \$13,000, but that's still far above the average car price.

In California, car manufacturers are throwing in three years of hydrogen fuel with each purchase or lease of a fuel-cell car. But after that, drivers will have to pay for it, and it's not cheap. Right now, it costs about \$14 a kilogram. With 5-kilogram total capacity in the Mirai, that's a \$70 cost every time you fill up, which is right up there with a gas-guzzling SUV.

Even with the growing number of hydrogen stations, they still can be hard to find and fairly inconvenient.

A related problem is that the



Mirai's hydrogen tanks and batteries significantly curtail its usable space. Unlike similar-size cars, the Mirai seats only four people; instead of a fifth seat in the back, it has an armrest. And its trunk space is noticeably smaller than that of comparable cars.

Meanwhile, the infotainment system in the Mirai seems little evolved from the one in

my 8-year-old Prius. The menu options are confusing, and it doesn't support Apple's CarPlay or Android Auto.

I'm excited about the potential for fuel-cell cars and thrilled that cars like the Mirai are finally hitting the road. But if the Mirai is any indication, they still have some miles to go before they'll have mainstream appeal.

NUTS & BOLTS

What: Toyota Mirai fuel-cell car

Likes: Drives like a gasoline-powered car; spacious interior; more than 300-mile range on full tanks; quiet; only tailpipe emission is water; comes with three years' worth of hydrogen refueling; can be refueled in about five minutes

Dislikes: Pricey, even with tax credits; refueling centers inconveniently located and few in number; hydrogen fuel is expensive, even compared with gasoline; seats only four;

trunk space smaller than comparably sized cars; infotainment center difficult to use and doesn't support Apple CarPlay or Android Auto; available only in California

Specs: 151-horsepower electric motor; 5-kilogram hydrogen tanks; four-seat sedan

Price: \$57,500 before taxes, delivery charges and processing fee; eligible for up to \$13,000 in federal and state tax credits and rebates

Web: www.toyota.com

Under the Hood: Using your parking brake without forgetting

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have been told in the past and was recently reminded by your column that I should be using the parking brake on my car for the reasons you and others have stated. I have not gotten into the habit. The couple of times I did use it, I forgot by the next time I drove the car that the brake was engaged and did not release it when I backed up. I may have even taken a couple short trips with it engaged.

How much and what kind of damage have I done to my car?

--Rose F.

A: Oh boy, this brings back a memory.

I once had a Chevy station wagon with a rather dim parking brake warning light hidden behind the steering wheel rim. In an attempt to spare the rear brakes from undue stress, I connected a rather pleasant chime to the warning light circuit. This brought on unforeseen marital discord, as the chime would also sound every time the starter was engaged, reminding everyone in the car each time it was driven that there had been parking brake difficulties in the past.

The chime lasted about two days.

Accidentally leaving a parking brake engaged will certainly heat up a vehicle's rear brake pads or shoes and will possibly cause damage to the mating rotors or drums. It depends how far and how fast the vehicle is driven before the driver notices the boo-boo. A block or two at low speed shouldn't be a problem. If an odor becomes noticeable after a longer drive, the brake friction material has become overheated.

Most current vehicles employ rear disc brakes, while larger and older vehicles typically have drum rear brakes. The parking brake on a disc brake system may mechani-

cally clamp the brake caliper, utilizing the brake discs and rotor as the holding method. Some disc brake systems utilize a small pair of brake shoes within each rotor's hub, imitating a drum-brake parking brake system. The former system can withstand a bit more abuse, but damage may be apparent (noises, possible pulsation) with every brake application. Damage to the latter would only be evident when using the parking brake (possibly doesn't hold as well).

My best suggestion is to set the parking brake as firmly as possible. This should create a more noticeable obstacle to

driving if it's not released.

In a recent column, I gave a few suggestions to a reader who was hoping to help her sister, whose husband had experienced some health issues, find a safe and dependable car.

Well, a regular reader of this column named Nikki, followed up with a few suggestions of her own. She wrote:

My mother, who is 88, loves her Toyota minivan. It's easy to get in and out of. The captain chair's arms flip up, making the vehicle easy for my elderly father to navigate. It's the perfect height from the ground, and the ease of getting a walker or wheelchair out of the back seat, which

can be folded up for easy storage, can't be beat.

Don't dismiss the difficulty of getting up and out of some cars, especially those with heavy doors. Sliding doors on vans are great and make loading groceries and other items easy. Vans also offer drivers a better view of the road.

There are three family members of my husband's side with mobility issues (bad hip, arthritis, stroke), and each of them has a Honda CRV. The CRVs are easy to park, offer great visibility, allow for problem-free entry and exit, and feature roomy trunks. To top things off, they need little maintenance.

Life & Style

'Secret Life of Pets' fetches \$103 million in opening days

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a good time for animated animals at the box office. "The Secret Life of Pets" follows "Zootopia" and "Finding Dory" as the latest success this year, opening to a massive \$103.2 million according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Illumination Entertainment and Universal Pictures film cost only \$75 million to produce, and it features the voices of comedians like Louis C.K. and Kevin Hart. "Pets" has been warmly received by critics and audiences, who gave the film a promising A-CinemaScore.

Going into the weekend, analysts predicted it would earn only around \$70 million, which would still have been a big success.

Not adjusting for inflation, "Pets" earned the title of best opening ever for an original animated property. The previous record-holder was Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out," which opened to \$90.4 million last year.

It's a big moment for Illumination Entertainment—the shop behind the hugely successful "Despicable Me" series and "Minions." The company is not quite Pixar yet, but it's working toward that sort of recognition.

"Illumination has been building a consistency of vi-



AP
In this image released by Universal Pictures, from left, characters Max, voiced by Louis C.K., Duke, voiced by Eric Stonestreet, and Katie, voiced by Ellie Kemper, appear in a scene from, "The Secret Lives of Pets."

sion, and now they have become what every studio covets—a draw," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore. "They're building that brand reputation with every movie."

The main draw, though, was likely in the simple and appealing premise: What do your pets do when you're not around?

"I think this movie resonates among all people," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "It's a very charming way in for

everyone to have fun with the concept of imagining their pets that way."

"Pets" effectively unseated "Finding Dory" from its three-week run in first place. The little blue fish actually fell to third place with \$20.4 million, behind "The Legend of Tarzan" which took in \$20.6 million in its second weekend in theaters.

Even with the drop, "Dory" this weekend surpassed "Captain America: Civil War" to become the top film of 2016 domestically, with its \$423 million in grosses. It helped

push The Walt Disney Studios to reach \$5 billion globally in record time. Much of that was propelled by the success of its family fare including "The Jungle Book."

"Family films have generated so much money this year," Dergarabedian said. "That's an audience who is always looking for content in a world filled with options for entertainment."

While Disney is celebrating its overall box office, there is one dud on the books. The studio's "The BFG" fell a giant 60 percent in its second week-

end. The movie, which cost around \$140 million to make, has earned a dismal \$38.7 million to date.

There were also a fair number of adults looking for something new to see this weekend without the kids, helping the raunchy R-rated comedy "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates" surpass expectations with an estimated \$16.6 million for a fourth-place debut. The film, distributed by 20th Century Fox, cost \$33

"The hope is that the momentum created by 'The Secret Life of Pets' will carry over to 'Ghostbusters,' 'Jason Bourne' and 'Suicide Squad,'" Dergarabedian said. "We're running out of track. It's almost the end of summer, and there's a lot of ground to make up, but one movie can make all the difference."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard

Latest police shootings inspire wave of celebrity activism

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the days after the shooting deaths of two black men by police, celebrities are doing more than just expressing frustration. They're demanding action, and in some cases, leading it.

Beyonce called on her fans to contact their congressional representatives; T.I. marched with thousands to protest police brutality in Atlanta; and Snoop Dogg and The Game went to Los Angeles Police Department headquarters, where they addressed graduating cadets with 100 community members.

"This is how you make moves," Snoop said at Friday's event. "You make it happen. You get some dialogue, some understanding with the new recruits before they hit the streets, so that way they know we're just like them and we trying to live and go home and get some understanding."

While the police-related killings of blacks has drawn impassioned commentary from celebrities before, and



AP
Rapper Snoop Dogg, center, leads a march in support of unification outside of the graduation ceremony for the latest class of Los Angeles Police recruits in Los Angeles, Friday, July 8, 2016.

some have aligned themselves with the Black Lives Matter movement, the killings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, within days of each other last week, sparked a new level of outrage and reaction, particularly from black celebrities, calling for a movement to change.

The killings of five police officers in Dallas by a lone gunman motivated by racial hatred of whites heightened

the tensions and calls for the need for change.

In a lengthy post on Instagram, New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony called on his fellow athletes to "step up and take charge."

"Go to your local officials, leaders, congressman, assemblymen/assemblywoman and demand change. There's NO more sitting back and being afraid of tackling and addressing political issues anymore," he wrote. "We can't worry

about what endorsements we gonna lose or whose going to look at us crazy. I need your voices to be heard."

But for real change to happen, the momentum has to continue, said rapper and activist David Banner.

"I'm so proud of my peers" for taking action and speaking out, Banner said in an interview Friday. "The thing that I hope, though, is that out of this moment we stay energized and we move forward."

Celebrities have long played a significant role in social change, from Harry Belafonte marching for civil rights to Muhammad Ali's anti-war activism. LeBron James and other basketball stars made news in 2014 when they wore t-shirts reading "I can't breathe" to protest the death of Eric Garner at the hands of police in New York City. Just last month, "Grey's Anatomy" star Jesse Williams just gave a passionate speech at the BET Awards calling for unity against police brutality.

1. "The Secret Life of Pets," \$103.2 million (\$7.8 million international).	10. "Sultan," \$2.2 million (\$18.2 million international).
2. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$20.6 million (\$27 million international).	Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:
3. "Finding Dory," \$20.4 million (\$29.7 million international).	1. "Cold War 2," \$44 million.
4. "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates," \$16.6 million (\$3.6 million international).	2. "Ice Age: Collision Course," \$32.3 million.
5. "The Purge: Election Year," \$11.7 million (\$2 million international).	3. "Big Fish & Chinese Flowering Crabapple," \$32 million.
6. "Central Intelligence," \$8.1 million (\$9.8 million international).	4. "Finding Dory," \$29.7 million.
7. "Independence Day: Resurgence," \$7.7 million (\$21.5 million international).	5. "The Legend of Tarzan," \$27 million.
8. "The BFG," \$7.6 million (\$4.6 million international).	6. "So Young 2: Never Gone," \$26 million.
9. "The Shallows," \$4.8 million (\$2.3 million international).	7. "Independence Day: Resurgence," \$21.5 million.
	8. "Sultan," \$18.2 million.
	9. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows," \$11.5 million.
	10. "Me Before You," \$10.5 million.

million to make, and stars Zac Efron, Adam Devine, Aubrey Plaza and Anna Kendrick.

"The Purge: Election Year" rounded out the top five with \$11.7 million.

The year is still up 3 percent from last summer, despite a string of underperformers lately. But there are still some would-be blockbusters on the horizon, including the new "Ghostbusters," which opens next weekend.

Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Madonna in Malawi visits hospital she has supported

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna in Malawi on Sunday visited the construction of a children's wing at a hospital that her charity is funding in this southern African country's largest city, Blantyre.

The pop star has been in Malawi for a week and is to meet President Peter Mutharika and health minister Peter Kumpalume. Madonna went to visit

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital to view the pediatric unit where construction started in May 2015 and which is expected to open in early 2017.

"This new facility is the first pediatric surgery and intensive care unit in any Malawi hospital. It will have an enormous impact on saving the lives of children," said Madonna, in a statement to The Associated Press. "In addition to raising

the quality and availability of health care, we are also preparing for the future by training more Malawian medical staff in specialized pediatric care."

Answering questions from the press, Madonna said that she does not yet have a name for the new children's wing.

"We don't have a name," she said, "but we have a building and we have dreams and they are going to be manifested very soon."

Madonna is accompanied by her two children adopted from Malawi, David and Mercy, and her son Rocco. Madonna said she will continue to work to get the unit the staff and equipment needed.

"It's going to be my responsibility to make sure that this place has the equipment and is fully operational on a regular basis," she said. "So I have a big job ahead of me. Wish me luck."

Asked if she has any more projects for Malawi, she said: "I would like to do one thing really well than many things half-



US performer Madonna gestures after visiting the paediatric surgery and Malawi's first ever intensive care unit under construction, at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in the southern city of Blantyre, Sunday, July 10, 2016.

ies for children and will provide critical pre-operative and post-operative care.

Raising Malawi was founded in 2006 by Madonna to address the poverty and hardship endured by Malawi's orphans and vulnerable children. Raising Malawi partners with local organizations to provide Malawian children and their caregivers with critical resources including education and medical care.

Stevie Wonder urges people to choose 'love over hate'

LONDON (AP)—Stevie Wonder urged his fans to choose "love over hate" and expressed dismay over the troubles in the world at a concert devoted to one of his classic albums.

The legend performed Sunday in Hyde Park for the British Summertime Festival. He opened his concert by telling fans he loved them all in these difficult times, and asked them to live in positivity.

"I encourage you to choose love over hate. It's just that simple. Choose love over hate, right over wrong, kind over meanness. Hope over no hope at all."

The 66-year-old's Grammy-winning, 1976 album "Songs in the Key of Life" was the focus of the concert; Wonder played the album in its entirety.

Before launching into the set Wonder went on to say that he was happy that the album was still significant almost forty years on but also unhappy that "the songs and the words that we talk about, those conditions still exist in the world and that hurts my heart."

He also referenced the Black Lives Matter movement, telling the crowd: "all

life does matter, but the reason that I say black lives matter is because we are the original people of this world. So in essence, everyone here has some black in you. You've all got some soul in you so stop denying your culture."

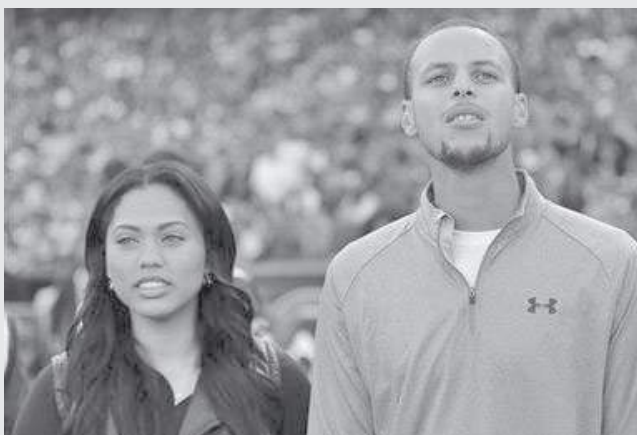
Wonder played for over two hours to a sellout London crowd of 65,000 people, closing this year's British Summertime series.

Stephen Curry's wife, Ayesha, regrets calling NBA 'rigged'

Ayesha Curry says she "didn't think about the ramifications" when she called the NBA rigged on Twitter after husband Stephen Curry's Golden State Warriors lost to the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 6 of the NBA finals.

Curry tells People magazine she regrets the ways she voiced how hurt she was and didn't mean to offend anyone. She says what she wrote isn't what she thinks about what her husband does for a living.

Stephen Curry tells the magazine he knows where his wife was coming from and adds that he's advised her to ignore what people say, because "you're not going to



In this Nov. 10, 2013, file photo, Golden State Warriors player Stephen Curry, right, and his wife Ayesha Curry watch as the San Francisco 49ers play the Carolina Panthers during the third quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco.

win any battles on Twitter."

Ayesha Curry is a popular social media personality with

assess, as they say in America."

The children's unit will include Malawi's first pediatric intensive care unit, three operating rooms dedicated to children's surgery, a day clinic and a 50-bed ward. It will enable Queen Elizabeth hospital to double the number of surger-

Aerosmith's Perry hospitalized after becoming ill at NY show

NEW YORK (AP)—Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry has been taken to a hospital after he was forced to leave the stage while performing in New York City.

Perry became ill around 9:30 p.m. Sunday while performing with Johnny Depp and Alice Cooper in his side band, the Hollywood Vampires, at Ford Amphitheater in Brooklyn's Coney Island.

An administrator at Coney Island Hospital confirmed the

65-year-old Perry is undergoing tests.

Hollywood Vampires record label rep Sujata Murthy says Perry is "stable and resting." Cooper also tweeted "our brother" Perry is stable and with family.

A video posted by a fan on social media shows Perry sitting down on stage and then walking off in the middle of a song.

The band continued playing after Perry left the stage.



AP
In this Saturday, May 25, 2013 file photo, lead guitarist Joe Perry, of American rock band Aerosmith, performs in Singapore during the inaugural Social Star Awards concert.

Man's stop-and-go romances may indicate lack of empathy

DEAR ABBY: I'm a man in my mid-30s who has recently recognized a pattern in my romantic relationships. A few of them lasted for several years, before they ended for various reasons. In between, I've gone a couple of years before seeking out and starting a new relationship. In the in-between time, I go online and meet people I have no intention of meeting in "real life," but who provide conversation and intimacy while I enjoy single life.

I'm about to repeat the pattern again. I'm a few months out of a three-year relationship and have met someone online. It's great to chat online and over the phone, but we are not close geographically, and I have no intention of meeting in person. What's your insight on this, and do you think this is healthy for me? Any ideas you can offer regarding this pattern?

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

DEAR NEW: I wish you had told me more about the circumstances of your breakups. Were they your idea or the other person's? If they weren't your idea, you may be using the in-between relationships as a safe form of entertainment while you are healing.

If you are upfront with the people you're meeting online, and they realize you have no intention of letting these

friendships go anywhere, then I suppose they are healthy for all concerned. If not, then what you are doing shows not only a lack of character, but also a lack of sensitivity for the feelings of others, and it may be one of the reasons your long-term relationships aren't lasting.

DEAR ABBY: My grandmother gets on my case all the time because I don't clean the bathroom every day. She grew up in the '50s and '60s and was a stay-at-home mom to two boys. However, I am a graduate student with a part-time job. I spend hours studying, and when I get some free time, I use it to do things I actually want to do.

My grandmother insists that everyone she knows/knew cleans their house every day, and when she talks about cleaning the bathroom, she doesn't mean just picking things up; she means spraying down all surfaces and getting out the bleach or foam spray to clean down the bathtub. I don't think she understands that no one I know—at least my age—cleans their house that way every single day, and that because I'm busy most days and often tired, I don't want to come home and clean the whole house.

Am I lazy, or am I right in telling her that I will not deep-clean my bathroom/apartment every day? (I think deep-cleaning every two weeks is fine.) The free time I have is precious.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

How often is appropriate?

SOUTHERN MARIE

DEAR SOUTHERN MARIE: If you haven't been able to convince your grandmother by now that your circumstances are different, the chances of it happening are slim to none. Under normal circumstances, deep-cleaning your bathroom once a week is fine and should keep it sparkling. If you're smart, you'll avoid arguing with her about this, because it's a waste of breath.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

**Garfield®**

By Jim Davis



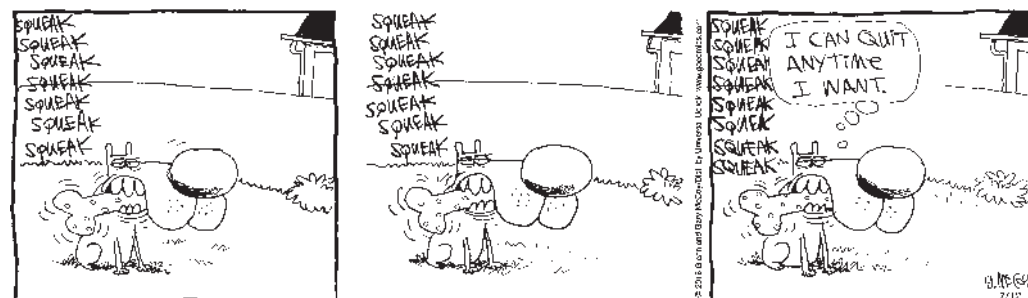
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



By Eugene Sheffer

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38 Friendship
41 NBC weekend show
42 Director Howard
45 Mentor
46 Tranquil state
48 Slightly
49 German river
50 Nile bird
51 Painter Magritte
52 Anonymous Jane
53 Russian refusal
1 Spiced tea
2 Riga resident
3 — and crafts
4 Luau bowlful
5 Pert
6 Staffer
7 Raw rock
8 Banality
9 Prego rival
10 Always
11 Hammer part
16 Tropical tuber
20 Internet address
21 Courage
22 — tai

23 Conditions
24 Opening
25 Actress Lucy
26 Stir-fry pan
27 Kimono closer
28 Prefix with natal
29 Soon-to-be grads
31 Family
34 Aye canceler
35 Competent
37 Ouzo flavor
38 Culture medium
39 Trumpet muffler
40 Persia, today
41 Wrestling style
42 July birth-stone
43 "Garfield" dog
44 Egg container
46 Proof letters
47 Stannum

Solution time: 22 mins.

O	R	B		A	B	S	E	V	R	Y	
B	E	F	F		P	A	H	A	I	D	E
O	P	F	I		R	R	R	S	A	S	S
E	S	S	E	X		B	U	S			
			A	I	L		G	O	T	H	A
	P	A	N	S	I	E	S		L	O	I
	I	S	E		G	O		P	E	A	R
A	T	R	A	P		W	O	U	L	D	B
F	O	O	D	I	E		P	R	E		
			V	E	G	A		N	A	T	C
K	I	W	I		Y	E	W		S	A	L
E	R	A	S		P	R	O		E	D	A
G	A	Y	E		T	O	W		A	D	S

Yesterday's answer 7-12

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone will underestimate your talent and skill. Don't worry about those who don't get what you are doing. Gravitate toward those who

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Invest in yourself. Don't be too keen on backing someone else. Be willing to bring about personal changes that will help you address money issues and future accomplishments. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ★★★

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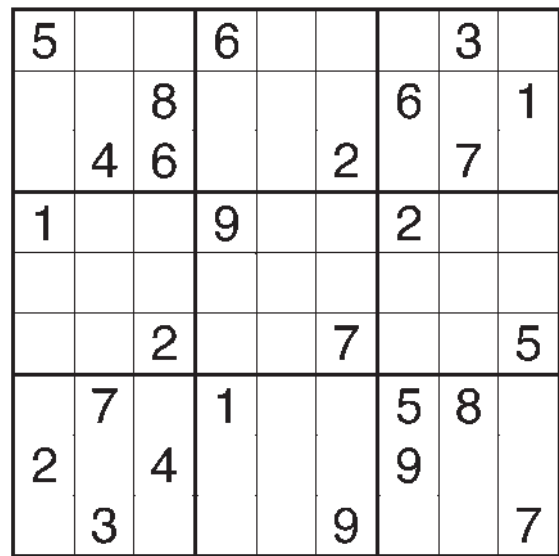


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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

7/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	1	7	5	6	4	9	3
5	7	4	3	9	8	2	6	1
9	6	3	1	4	2	7	8	5
7	5	8	2	3	9	1	4	6
1	9	6	8	7	4	3	5	2
4	3	2	6	1	5	8	7	9
8	2	5	4	6	1	9	3	7
3	1	9	5	8	7	6	2	4
6	4	7	9	2	3	5	1	8

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD**.

WOMEN RESINS

Solution: 3 letters

F	T	O	F	L	E	X	I	B	L	E	B	R	A	L
L	R	H	O	W	T	A	E	R	T	R	E	D	A	D
A	A	A	E	Z	⓪	①	Ⓛ	Ⓢ	O	L	E	C	D	I
M	E	C	N	R	E	T	A	W	E	N	I	T	S	
M	H	L	Q	K	A	W	N	M	I	M	L	N	S	T
A	S	S	B	U	I	P	E	F	E	O	A	E	N	I
B	I	T	U	A	E	N	E	H	S	T	E	E	N	L
L	L	N	K	O	T	R	C	U	C	R	I	K	T	L
E	O	A	R	S	R	S	T	E	T	C	S	F	R	E
H	P	L	A	E	T	E	F	C	N	I	O	N	E	D
R	L	P	B	C	N	N	F	A	E	S	C	I	M	A
R	I	M	E	A	I	P	A	I	N	T	E	O	S	Y
Y	A	S	M	S	C	E	M	E	N	T	O	S	L	O
M	N	E	I	D	N	U	O	P	M	O	C	R	O	R
I	L	D	D	E	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	O	P	A

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To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD**, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

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Contact No. 323-0102

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Saipan Tribune

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

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Interested individuals please submit resume to: Emelda M. Ito, [Accountant/Personnel In Charge], Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to Monika's Furniture, Beach Road, Chalan Lau-lau, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or send by facsimile (670) 235-2033; or by e-mail to hardteye.acctg@gmail.com.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,] CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,] NO. 07-436
-v-]
HENRY O. OGO,]
Defendant]

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 321, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 950 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat no. 345 R 07 dated July 1, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 5, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of June, 2016:

/S/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer




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BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2016-016 PRE-BID CONFERENCE DATE & TIME

“CLEANING SERVICES FOR NMHC’S CENTRAL OFFICE (SAIPAN)”

To all interested bidders, please take note on the correct date and time for the **mandatory pre-bid conference at 9:00 a.m. on July 12, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Is looking for a
HEAD COACH
January to December 2017

Location: Saipan, CNMI.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Introduce and demonstrate up to date training methods and playing techniques to players and then plan, organize, and conduct training and practice sessions.
- Scout and observe players from all levels to evaluate players' strengths and weaknesses, to recommend the level at which players can train or players, and to identify and recruit potential athletes..
- Plan and direct physical conditioning programs that will enable athletes to achieve maximum performance.
- Coach, train and prepare national team players for international competitions
- Provide training direction and develop methods to encourage and motivate players for games and competitions.
- Adjust coaching techniques, based on the strengths and weaknesses of athletes.
- Instruct individuals or groups in sports rules, game strategies, and performance principles.
- Keep records of athletes, teams and opposing teams' performance and analyze the strength and weaknesses of opposing teams to develop game strategies.
- Take the lead for developing a multi-year strategic plan for the NMIFA.

Minimum Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree in Sports Science, Physical Education or related major plus 5 years minimum experience in the job offered. Resume must reflect the experience required and references will be verified.
- Applicant must be a Class A-Licensed Coach in soccer.
- Must have extensive experience in soccer sports development including development programs of youth, men and women national players.
- Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.
- Must have international coaching experience at the national level.
- Can communicate effectively in English and understanding and speaking other Asian languages is a plus.
- Familiarity with EAFF and AFC run programs and competitions will be highly considered.
- Having a Coaching Instructor Certification will also be highly considered.

Salary will be based on qualification. Please send resume and other documents showing all requirements to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association - 3rd Floor, TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan or PMB 338, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or Fax no. 1-670-233-6632 or email to rzapanta@nmifa.com. To be considered, resume must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Thursday, July 28, 2016.

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Portugal stuns France in finals despite Ronaldo injury

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP)—Portugal's players crowded around Cristiano Ronaldo as he sat on the turf, but their tearful captain couldn't withstand the pain of his injury any longer.

The Portuguese had to win their first major trophy the hard way on Sunday, stunning France 1-0 after extra time in the European Championship final - having played without Ronaldo from the 25th minute.

Two hours after being carried off on a stretcher, the three-time world player of the year returned a champion for the first time with his country.

"I had bad luck because I had a small injury in the beginning of the game, but my colleagues did their part - they run, they fight," said Ronaldo, who has already won every major club honor. "Nobody believed in Portugal but we won".

An unlikely scorer secured the pre-tournament outsiders a title at last.

It could be an uncomfortable few months ahead for Eder, the unheralded striker who will return shortly to French club Lille after breaking French hearts with his 109th-minute goal.

"The ugly duckling became beautiful," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said.

A second-half substitute, Eder scored only his fourth goal in 29 appearances for Portugal with a low shot from 25 meters (yards) past goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

"Cristiano told me I would be scoring the winning goal," Eder said. "He gave me strength and positive energy."

In doing so, Portugal denied the French a third final victory on home soil to add to Euro '84 and the 1998 World Cup.

"Football can be very cruel," said Lloris, France's captain. "The overriding emotion is a lot of sadness."

Twelve years after losing to Greece on home soil in their last appearance in the final,



AP
Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo holds up the trophy at the end of the Euro 2016 final soccer match between Portugal and France at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, Sunday, July 10, 2016. Portugal won, 1-0.

it was Portugal's turn to spoil the host nation's party. And they achieved it after winning only one of their seven games at Euro 2016 inside 90 minutes, and after losing the inspirational Ronaldo midway through the first half.

"It was tough because we lost our main man and we had all our hopes pinned on him because he's a player who can score a goal at any minute," Portugal defender Pepe said. "When he said he couldn't go on, I tried to tell my teammates that we have to win it for him. That we were going to fight for him."

It was a mostly dull and stodgy final but the record books will only show that Portugal went from third-place in its group to champion, and with little help from Ronaldo in its last match.

The championship's first 24-team tournament became a reality over the last month, but the quality of football deteriorated. Such a sterile showpiece

- the first European Championship final to be scoreless after 90 minutes - seemed a fitting climax.

"We weren't clinical enough," said France coach Didier Deschamps, who lifted the World Cup in the stadium as a player in 1998. "We weren't cool-headed enough."

Even France forward Antoine Griezmann, the tournament's leading scorer, couldn't rise to the big occasion. There was no seventh goal of Euro 2016 from the Atletico Madrid forward, who also lost out in the Champions League final six weeks ago to Ronaldo's Real Madrid.

Griezmann was the first player to find the target, but his header was tipped over by Rui Patricio, who was formidable in the Portugal goal. When an inviting cross from Kingsley Coman was delivered in the 66th, Griezmann missed with a free header.

Only once was Patricio

beaten, when Andre-Pierre Gignac's shot hit the inside of the post but it came back out.

Luck was on Portugal's side, and Eder was able to strike the decisive blow.

It didn't seem to be going Portugal's way in the ninth minute when Dimitri Payet's right knee clattered into Ronaldo's standing left leg.

Ronaldo went down in agony—writhing, grimacing and screaming. He was able to return, but this was one injury he could not run off.

Ronaldo fell to the turf again in the 17th. One of the moths infesting the national stadium fluttered over Ronaldo's tearful right eye. Teammates tried to help in vain to help, with Nani tending to the knee.

Ronaldo watched the game forlornly on the touchline as strapping was attached before dragging himself back onto the field.

But Ronaldo's mobility was restricted. Battling through the pain, regularly reaching down to check on the injury, Ronaldo

do realized there would be no miracle recovery.

The clock hit 23 minutes and Ronaldo ripped off his captain's armband and tossed it on the turf. Slumping to the ground again, Ronaldo was consoled by Nani, who embraced his former Manchester United teammate as the armband was transferred.

The stretcher came on and in the 25th minute Ronaldo became a spectator. But thanks to Patricio's array of saves and

dogged defending, Ronaldo left a champion.

Unlike his great rival Lionel Messi, the Argentina and Barcelona forward, the 31-year-old Ronaldo has now filled the medal void on the major international stage. It's a rapid turnaround for a national team that exited the 2014 World Cup in the group stage.

"It's something unbelievable in my career," Ronaldo said. "Something I deserve."

France's poor finishing resurfaces

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP)—Wasteful finishing came back to haunt France in the European Championship final against Portugal on Sunday, with even tournament top scorer Antoine Griezmann missing chance after chance.

Despite being willed on by an entire country and a packed French crowd, France failed to come up with any original ideas against a stubborn Portugal defense rallied by unyielding defender Pepe.

Midway through the second half, Griezmann reached for Kingsley Coman's cross from the left and headed over from a few meters out. Deep into injury time, substitute Andre-Pierre Gignac hit the post with the goal at his mercy.

Although Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio made several good saves, including one outstanding leaping save from Griezmann's looping header in the ninth minute and another athletic stop to palm away Moussa Sissoko's long-range drive in the 8th, his other stops were

more comfortable.

Coach Didier Deschamps will have felt a familiar feeling of frustration.

Although France finished top scorers with 13 goals, it squandered chances throughout the group stage, needing an 89th-minute goal from Dimitri Payet to beat Romania 2-1 in the opening game and with Griezmann breaking the deadlock against Albania in the 90th.

He scored freely after that, netting five goals in the knockout stage to help France reach its first final since the 2006 World Cup.

In the final, his goal touch deserted him.

At the final whistle, center half Laurent Koscielny squatted on his knees, head down. But it was not the defense that let France down.

When France won Euro 2000, it needed an equalizing goal from Sylvain Wiltord with the last kick of injury time to force extra time against Italy. Striker David Trezeguet then scored the Golden Goal winner.

Sixteen years later, there was no such happy ending.

Broncos boost offer to Miller



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos have boosted their offer to Von Miller, a person with knowledge of the proposal has told The Associated Press. The Super Bowl MVP has threatened to sit out the 2016 season without a long-term deal.

The person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because negotiations are ongoing, said the new proposal was submitted to Miller's agent, Joby Branion, on Friday and moves up the

date at which more money would be guaranteed.

The sides have a week to work out a deal or Miller would only be allowed to play the 2016 season on the \$14.26 million exclusive franchise tag tender, something he's insisted he won't do.

A month ago, Miller's camp agreed to the parameters of the Broncos' \$114.5 million, six-year offer that would have made Miller the NFL's highest-paid non-quarterback but they wanted more guaranteed money. The proposal included \$38.5 million fully guaranteed over the first

two years with the possibility of another \$19.5 million that wouldn't kick in until Year 3.

Miller prefers something more along the lines of Fletcher Cox's recent deal that guarantees him \$55 million in the first nine months and about \$63 million overall.

Miller predicted peaceful contract negotiations after spearheading Denver's 24-10 win over Carolina in the Super Bowl but things got thorny last month. Miller cropped general manager John Elway from a photo on his Instagram account

and said there's no way he'd play this season on the franchise tag.

His teammates continue to express confidence Miller will be in uniform when the Broncos open training camp later this month.

"I think it will happen because me and Elway went down to the wire last year," said receiver Demaryius Thomas, who signed a \$70 million deadline deal in 2015.

"Mr. Elway will get it done," safety T.J. Ward predicted on "NFL Total Access" this week. "I know Von is eager to get back with us. We miss him, he misses us. It is time to get going. But, I'm pretty sure it will get done."

LONDON (AP)—Andy Murray's first Wimbledon championship was for his country.

This one was for Andy Murray.

Dulling big serves with quick-reflex returns, conjuring up daring passing shots and playing impressively mistake-free tennis all the while, Murray beat Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) on Sunday for his second trophy at the All England Club and third Grand Slam title overall.

In 2013, Murray famously ended Britain's 77-year wait for one of its own to win the men's final at Wimbledon, a quest that became burdensome.

Now he wanted a victory to end his personal rut of three consecutive losses in major finals, including at the Australian Open in January, and French Open last month.

"It is different. I feel happier this time. I feel more content this time. I feel like this was sort of more for myself more than anything, and my team as well," the second-seeded Murray said. "Last time, it was just pure relief, and I didn't really enjoy the moment as much, whereas I'm going to make sure I enjoy this one."

This was his 11th Grand Slam final, but the first against someone other than Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer. The sixth-seeded Raonic

Murray gets second Wimbledon title



AP
Andy Murray of Britain plays a return to Milos Raonic of Canada during the men's singles final on the fourteenth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday, July 10, 2016.

Murray, a 29-year-old from Scotland, long dealt with the expectations that accompanied being Britain's best chance to find a male champion to succeed Fred Perry, who last won the grass-court tournament in 1936. After Sunday's victory, Murray's mother, former British Fed Cup captain Judy, referred to that old phenomenon as, "The constant, 'When are you going to win Wimbledon? When are you going to win Wimbledon? When are you going to win Wimbledon?'"

But her son has dealt with that and thrived, thanks to a counter-punching game and sublime returns of serve.

It took Raonic 36 minutes and five service games to record his first ace, and he wound up with only eight. Over and over, Murray managed to get the ball back, even one that came in at 147 mph.

And while Murray only broke Raonic once, to lead 4-3 in the opening set, that was all it took, because the tiebreakers were surprisingly one-way traffic.

Murray also took 50 of 65 points he served across the first two sets, not only never facing so much as a break point in that span but also being pushed to deuce merely once.

Finally, at 2-all in the third, Raonic got to 15-40 for his first—and, it turned out, only—break points, thanks to a forehand return winner off an 82 mph second serve.

"Potentially turning points," said Carlos Moya, one of a trio of coaches for Raonic, including John McEnroe. "If he got that break, who knows what could happen?"

But Murray stood tall, taking the next four points to hold, then wheeled toward his box, pumping his right fist and yelling.

According to the official statistics, Murray made only 12 unforced errors, two in the second set. While that's a subjective accounting, anyone watching and listening could plainly tell that he was striking the ball cleanly and confidently, a crisp thwack resonating as racket strings hit ball, much more often than not putting shots right where intended.

"Really good stuff," Murray said.

His opponent's take? "He was playing much better than me off the baseline," Raonic acknowledged.

eliminated Federer in five sets in the semifinals Friday, and also defeated the player who stunned Djokovic in the third round, Sam Querrey.

Those wins helped Raonic become the first man representing Canada to reach a major final.

He did it, primarily, by av-

eraging 25½ aces through six matches. But on a breezy afternoon, at a Centre Court filled with nearly 15,000 partisan fans, Murray shut down that integral part of Raonic's game.

"This one's going to

sting," Raonic said.

It's been a rough few weeks for Britain, what with its vote to leave the European Union, the drop of the pound's value, and the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron, who was



Bumgarner pitches 1-hit gem, Giants blank Diamondbacks



SAN FRANCISCO

(AP)—Madison Bumgarner allowed Arizona's only hit with one out in the eighth inning and matched a career high with 14 strikeouts to lead the San Francisco Giants over the Diamondbacks 4-0 on Sunday night.

Bumgarner (10-4) retired 25 of the 28 batters he faced, including two double plays, and walked one while going the distance for the third time this season.

Jake Lamb broke up Bumgarner's bid with a single. Lamb also reached on an error in the fifth when right fielder Gregor Blanco dropped a flyball.

Beyond that, San Francisco's four-time All-Star was nearly untouchable while notching his fourth career one-hitter.

Archie Bradley (3-5) allowed two runs over six innings.

Nationals 3, Mets 2

In New York, Daniel Murphy kept answering the Citi Field boos with booms, hitting his seventh home run this year for Washington against the team that let him go last winter.

Murphy tops the majors with a .348 batting average at

the All-Star break, boosted by the damage he has done to the Mets. He homered three times and drove in 10 runs as the NL East leaders took three of four in this series, opening a six-game edge over New York.

Murphy lined a two-run drive off the facing off the upper deck in the first inning. Overall, he is 22 for 52 (.423) with 21 RBI vs. his old club.

Cubs 6, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Kris Bryant hit an RBI single in the eighth inning, sending the Cubs to a sorely needed victory.

Pinch hitter Matt Szczur doubled to left field with one out against Tony Watson (1-3). Bryant, who had three hits and reached four times, followed with his tiebreaking hit.

Yankees 11, Indians 7

In Cleveland, Jacoby Ellsbury hit a three-run homer, and the Yankees overcame a shaky outing by Masahiro Tanaka.

New York scored four runs in the second and six in the fifth, moving to .500 (44-44) going into the All-Star break.

Red Sox 4, Rays 0

In Boston, David Price pitched eight innings in his best start with the Red Sox,

and David Ortiz hit a two-run homer.

The victory completed a three-game sweep for the Red Sox and handed Tampa Bay its 22nd loss in 25 games.

Blue Jays 6, Tigers 1

In Toronto, All-Star Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer for Toronto, and R.A. Dickey won back-to-back starts for the first time in a month.

Donaldson is the sixth player in American League history to hit at least 20 home runs and score 80 runs or more before the All-Star break.

Dodgers 3, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, Kenta Maeda struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings, leading the Dodgers to the win.

Maeda (8-6) allowed a run on Derek Norris' homer in the fifth and two hits. He retired 14 of the first 15 batters he faced and struck out six straight near the end of his outing.

Mariners 8, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Robinson Cano and Adam Lind homered during Seattle's five-run seventh inning.

Cano's two-run shot to deep right field for his 21st

homer extended the Mariners' lead to 5-0.

Orioles 4, Angels 2

In Baltimore, Chris Tillman pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, Chris Davis and J.J. Hardy homered and the Orioles beat Tim Lincecum and the Angels.

Adam Jones and Pedro Alvarez had three hits apiece for the Orioles, who improved to 33-14 at home.

Twins 15, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Max Kepler hit Minnesota's first grand slam this season, one of four homers for the Twins.

Minnesota won three of four at Texas after taking the last two games of its home series against the Rangers the previous weekend.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, St. Louis right-hander Mike Leake struck out a season-high 10 over seven innings, and Matt Adams and Randal Grichuk homered.

Adams snapped an 0-for-27 skid with a leadoff drive in the second.

Braves 2, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Mike Foltyniewicz struck out a career-high 10 in seven innings, leading Atlanta to the victory.

Foltyniewicz (3-3), who grew up in the far southwest suburbs of Chicago, allowed five hits and walked none.

Astros 2, Athletics 1, 10 innings

In Houston, Jake Marisnick scored the winning run on an errant throw in the 10th inning, helping the Astros rally for the win.

Marisnick led off the 10th with a single off Liam Hendricks (0-2).

Marlins 7, Reds 3

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton's 20th homer helped the Marlins complete their first series sweep of Cincinnati since 2003.

Stanton, who will compete Monday in the All-Star Home Run Derby, was batting .193 on June 15, but he goes into the break with an average of .233 and 50 RBI.

Phillies 10, Rockies 3

In Denver, Maikel Franco and Cameron Rupp hit long home runs for Philadelphia, and rookie Zach Eflin got his second big league win.

The Phillies have won 10 of 13 games. Rupp tied his career high with four RBI, including a two-run homer that traveled 465 feet in the seventh inning.

Sharapova out of Olympics, ruling on appeal postponed to September

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) -- A ruling on Maria Sharapova's appeal of her two-year doping ban has been postponed until September, ruling her definitively out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Monday that Sharapova and the International Tennis Federation agreed to defer the decision, which had been due to be issued by next Monday.

CAS, the highest court in sports, said both parties wanted more time to prepare their case and also cited "scheduling conflicts."

A verdict is expected by Sept. 19, the court said.

Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1-ranked player, tested positive for meldonium at the Australian Open in January and received a two-year ban from the ITF. She filed an appeal last month, seeking to



overturn or reduce the sanction.

The parties agreed then to an "expedited procedure" that would allow CAS to issue its ruling this month. Had the suspension been annulled, that

would have made Sharapova eligible for the Olympics in August.

The decision to push back the ruling to September also rules out any possibility of Sharapova being cleared to

play in the U.S. Open, which runs from Aug. 29-Sept. 11.

"Due to the parties requiring additional time to complete and respond to their respective evidentiary submissions, and several scheduling conflicts,

In this Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016 file photo, Maria Sharapova of Russia loses a point to Serena Williams of the United States during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia. A ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Monday July 11, 2016 that Sharapova's appeal of her two-year doping ban has been postponed until September, ruling her definitively out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

the parties have agreed not to expedite the appeal," CAS said in the statement.

Sharapova's lawyer, John Haggerty, said the decision was by mutual agreement and will give her team additional time to prepare its case.

"CAS is the court of final appeal and this extension will be helpful," Haggerty said in a statement. "We are hopeful Maria's suspension will be reduced, but in

all cases, these additional two months will not impact our expectations of what can be achieved."

Sharapova acknowledged taking meldonium before each match at the Australian Open. She said she had not been aware that meldonium, also known as mildronate, had been banned by World Anti-Doping Agency as of Jan. 1.

An independent three-person panel appointed by the ITF ruled that Sharapova did not intend to cheat because she didn't know meldonium was banned, but that she bore "sole responsibility" and "very significant fault" for the positive test.

Sharapova said she first was prescribed the Latvian-made drug, typically used for heart conditions, for medical reasons in 2006.

Her ban is due to end on Jan. 25, 2018, which would keep her out of eight Grand Slam tournaments, along with the Olympics.

Haslem and Tyler Johnson stay with Heat



MIAMI (AP)—Tyler Johnson was all set for a new chapter in Brooklyn, thinking there was no way he would be back with the Heat.

He was wrong.

He's staying put, Udonis Haslem is also coming back and there's a slew of new faces in Miami now after a hectic Sunday series of moves. The Heat matched the \$50 million, four-year offer sheet Johnson got from the Nets, and signed Haslem to a \$4 million deal for his 14th season in Miami.

With that, the transformation of a Heat team that will be without Dwyane Wade for the first time since 2003 is fully underway.

"For over a decade, Udonis has embodied what it means to wear the Miami Heat uniform," Heat President Pat Riley said. "He has been the pillar and constant of this organization, and is a true

champion in every sense of the word. We are thrilled that Udonis is back to help impart his leadership and instill the Heat culture with his new teammates."

Along with the Haslem and Tyler Johnson deals, the run-down of Sunday moves went like this: Wayne Ellington and James Johnson signed as free agents, Derrick Williams' deal got finalized, Luke Babbitt arrived in a trade with New Orleans, and Willie Reed agreed to terms on a contract that will be complete in the coming days.

Ellington gets \$12 million for two years, though only the first year is guaranteed. Derrick Williams got \$5 million for one year, James Johnson got \$4 million for one year and Babbitt has a deal that will pay him about \$1.2 million this coming season. Reed's deal will be a two-year pact with a player option for the second year, according to Yahoo Sports.

Tyler Johnson will make about \$6 million in each of the first two years, then about \$19 million in each of the final two years, turning the guard into someone who went from undrafted to basically set for life in two years. He's part of a young core the Heat regard highly, a group that also includes Hassan Whiteside (who got a \$98 million, four-year deal finalized last week), Justise Winslow and Josh Richardson.

"They are going to have a tremendous opportunity this season," Riley said.

Haslem has been vital in the development of center Whiteside -- maybe even more vital now with Wade leaving Miami, and the Heat still not knowing if Chris Bosh (who has battled blood clots in each of the last two seasons) will be back. Haslem barely played last season, averaging 1.6 points in extremely limited action spanning 37 games.

But Riley said when the season ended that Miami had no plans on letting the Miami native leave, and that held true.

"Way to continue holding it down for your city," Wade told Haslem on Twitter.

The Heat became Ellington's seventh team in eight seasons. The shooting guard won an NCAA title at North Carolina and was Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four in 2009. He spent his first three years in Minnesota and has been on the move just about annually since, playing for Memphis, Cleveland, Dallas, the Los Angeles Lakers and most recently Brooklyn.

Ellington has four games of 25 or more points in his career, two of those coming against Miami. And his career best for 3-pointers in a game is seven, done twice -- both times against Miami, first in 2012 when he was with the Grizzlies and again last December while with Brooklyn.

Secharmidal was perfect at the plate with his 3-for-3 and also tallied two runs and one RBI. Jay Kalen was 2-for-4, while Mendiola was 0-for-1 and contributed two runs.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Senior All-Stars will try to bounce back today when they take on Australia in the first game in their division. The defending champions are pressed to win against the Aussies as the World Series qualifying tournament is a short one with a round-robin format. The Top 2 teams in the six-squad field after the elimination will battle for the World Series ticket, which the CNMI got in the last two years.

MALIKA

From Page 28

against Kiwis Lily McCarthy and Hannah Morgan, 6-2, 6-4. The CNMI bet then met Sun anew in the second round and she and McInroy fell to Sun and Hana Kim, 6-2, 6-0. Top-ranked Bains and Sara Nayar ruled the doubles contest after defeating the second-seeded Sun and Kim in the finale, 6-4, 4-6, 11-9.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth junior player also competed in the qualifying tournament for the 2016 Rod Laver

Lead and unfortunately she did not make the grade, losing in the third round after earning two wins. The Saipan International School student survived the first round with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Australia's Margaret Jones and then swept No. 7 Savannah Dora Gillies, 6-0, 6-0, to move into the third round. With her 2-0 record, Miyawaki was just a step away from advancing to the main draw, however she fell short after bowing to Charlotte Rosemary Catherwood in the closely fought match, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (1).

GIDEON

From Page 28

Gideon handed Samuel its first loss in the league after stunning the top finisher in the first half. Gideon built a double-digit lead, 33-23, after the opening 20 minutes of play. Allan Chavez led Gideon's good start, scoring 11 of his 18 points in the first half. He also drew ample support from four of his teammates, which contributed at least 4 points apiece.

Samuel, behind Mark Cando, tried to mount a comeback in the second half, but failed to overhaul the lead. Ronald Balte scored 3 straight points in the homestretch and Gatdula added a split free throw to seal it for Gideon.

In the second game, Mark Cabanas had another 40-plus performance to lift Jeremiah to an 81-72 victory over the winless Joshua.

Cabanas, who came from a 45-point explosion in their 83-67 rout of Daniel last Tuesday, had 43 markers against Joshua.

He scored 22 straight markers midway in the first half to single-handedly give Jeremiah a 41-37 advantage at the break.

Cabanas's production offset the combined efforts of Jay Paclibar and Mark Puno and the former kept going in the second half to put Jeremiah in front. Puno led Joshua with his 28 points, while Paclibar finished with 19.

First Game

Gideon 67— Chavez 18, Demapan 12, Darag 10, Balte 9, Dalusung 8, Gatdula 7, De Leon 3,

Samuel 62— Cando 26, Reyes 14, Francia 12, Brillo 5, Robles 5.

Scoring by halves: 33-23, 67-62.

Second Game

Jeremiah 81— Cabanas 43, Cortez 12, Conti 10, Fatialofa 8, Lunzaga 4, Buniag 2,

Joshua 72— Puno 28, Paclibar 19, Daluyen 17, Omam-po 8.

Scoring by halves: 40-37, 81-72.

CNMI

From Page 28

not enough to prevent Guam from scoring more runs and winning the early rematch of the 2014 finalists. The CNMI defeated Guam, 8-6, in the title game held in Clark, too, two years ago.

Guam after slowing down in the second to fourth inning where it also tallied one run, foiled the CNMI's comeback bid by recording three runs in the fifth and one apiece in the last two innings.

The Commonwealth, after trailing by 6 in the first inning, moved within three as it registered two runs each in

the second and third. Shakobe Rangamar had an RBI double in the second, while Secharmidal scored off Guam's error. In the third, Aurel Mendiola and Kimo Angailen reached off Guam's miscues to keep the CNMI in the game.

However, the defending champions failed to sustain their momentum as they had a 1-2-3 inning in the fourth and fifth, while Guam had earlier tacked on three runs at the top of the fifth and one more in the sixth to widen the gap, 11-2. The CNMI also gained one run (Sercharmidal scoring off an error) at the bottom of the sixth, but Guam got it back with Aaron Jamanila also making it

home from their foes' booooo at the top of the seventh.

At the bottom of the seventh, the CNMI boosted its chances for a comeback when Mendiola and Henry Aguon scored with only one out (lead-off batter Angailen). However, again, the defending champions could not keep their momentum, as the next three batters went down, giving Guam the opening day win.

Jamanila led Guam's victory, as he went 3-for-5 at bat and scored two runs and one RBI. Tino Muna had two RBIs on a 2-for-4 performance at the plate. Guam was 8-for-32 at bat, while the CNMI went 7-for-29.

32nd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Don Pedro crewmember and his son pose with their 50.95-lb yellow fin during the weigh-in on Day 1 of the 32nd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.



A crewmember bring his wahoo to the weigh station.



Keilani Ko crewmembers show their 102.20-lb marlin.



Two volunteers carry a marlin from the pickup truck to the weigh station.



Division of Fish and Wildlife staff members prepare to weigh a marlin from Sea Hawk.



A crewmember, left, from one of the participating boats carries a yellow fin to the weigh station.



A Marlin Chasers crewmember flashes a smile as he poses with their 2.3-lb mahi.



Scullywag crew members pose with their 44-lb yellow fin.



Spectators watch as Division of Fish and Wildlife employees weigh in the catches of the day.



Spectators check on the leaderboard after Day 1 of the competition.



Portugal stuns
France in
finals despite
Ronaldo injury

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Murray
gets second
Wimbledon title

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

CNMI drops opener in ASPAC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champions CNMI Senior All-Stars faltered in their first game as they lost to Guam, 7-12, yesterday in the 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, Philippines.

The Commonwealth players surrendered six early runs, allowing Guam to draw first blood in the World Series

qualifier. There were only two games in the opening day of the ASPAC in the Senior League division and results

Gideon foils Samuel's bid for sweep



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel and Samuel players battle for the rebound during the first half of their game in the Genesis Cup last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Gideon played a spoiler role as it defeated Samuel, 67-62, in the penultimate game in the adults division of the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Gideon's win foiled Samuel's bid for a sweep of the regular season. Gideon went on to finish the round-robin play with a 5-2 record for second place, while Samuel

still occupied the top spot with its 6-1 mark. Jeremiah also held a 5-2 card, but lost the tiebreak with Gideon and dropped to third, while Ezekiel (4-3) came in at fourth. Caleb (3-4), Daniel (2-5), Joshua (2-5), and Isaiah (0-7) rounded out the field.

All eight teams will advance to the playoffs, which will only start once the regular season games in the youth division are completed. The pairings in the first round are as follows: No. 1 vs 8; No. 2 vs No. 7; No. 3 vs No. 6, and No. 4 vs No. 5.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The CNMI Senior All-Stars' Ethan Babauta, seen here waiting for the pitch in their game against the Philippines in last year's Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, pitched for the Commonwealth in its opening match (versus Guam) in the ASPAC yesterday at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga, Philippines.

of the second match between host the Philippines and Australia were unavailable at press time.

Guam built a 6-0 lead at the end of the first inning after getting four runs off the

CNMI's defensive lapses. Richard Atalig was the Commonwealth's starting pitcher and worked the mound for only one inning after giving up two hits and com-



mitting four errors and one hit by pitch.

Atalig was replaced by Ethan Babauta, who pitched in three innings and yielded one run and three hits. The Law-

rence Camacho-managed squad used two more pitchers—Brandon Pua and Virgil Secharmidal—in its first game, but the changes were

See CNMI on Page 26

Malika makes Pacific Oceania Touring team, again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior player Malika Miyawaki earned anew a spot on Grand Slam Development Fund's Pacific Oceania Touring Team and competed in three tournaments in Australia last week.

Miyawaki, who was on the same elite squad that joined a series of competitions in the Land Down Under from December last year to early January this year, participated in a team event in Brisbane and also strutted her wares in two more regular tournaments in the same city in Queensland.

In the team event, Miyawaki joined forces with seven fellow Pacific Oceania players and a couple more from Asia and New Zealand and they defeated Australia's representatives.

Up next for the 13-year-old player was the 2016 Rod Laver Qld Junior Championships and she had to go through

a qualifying tournament to make it to the main draw. Miyawaki fought for one of the eight qualifying slots against 37 other players from New Zealand and Australia.



The CNMI player moved into the second round of the qualifier after a win via walkover against Nina Cincovic. Miyawaki then marched

into the third round following an upset over the fifth-ranked Claudia Barnes, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. She went on to keep her streak in the qualifier and gained an entry to the main draw after winning over another seeded foe, No. 11 Ashleigh Ivanovski, 6-1, 6-3.

In the 64-player main draw, Miyawaki had the toughest

assignment as she faced No. 1 seed Cyan Sun and lost, 2-6, 0-6. The second-ranked Roopa Bains won the singles crown after downing Sun in the finals, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (1).

In the doubles, Miyawaki paired with New Zealand's Cayla Joy McInroy and they won their opening match

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OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

The CNMI's Malika Miyawaki, sixth left, poses with her fellow Pacific Oceania Touring Team players and their coach before playing against Australia in a team event in Brisbane last week.